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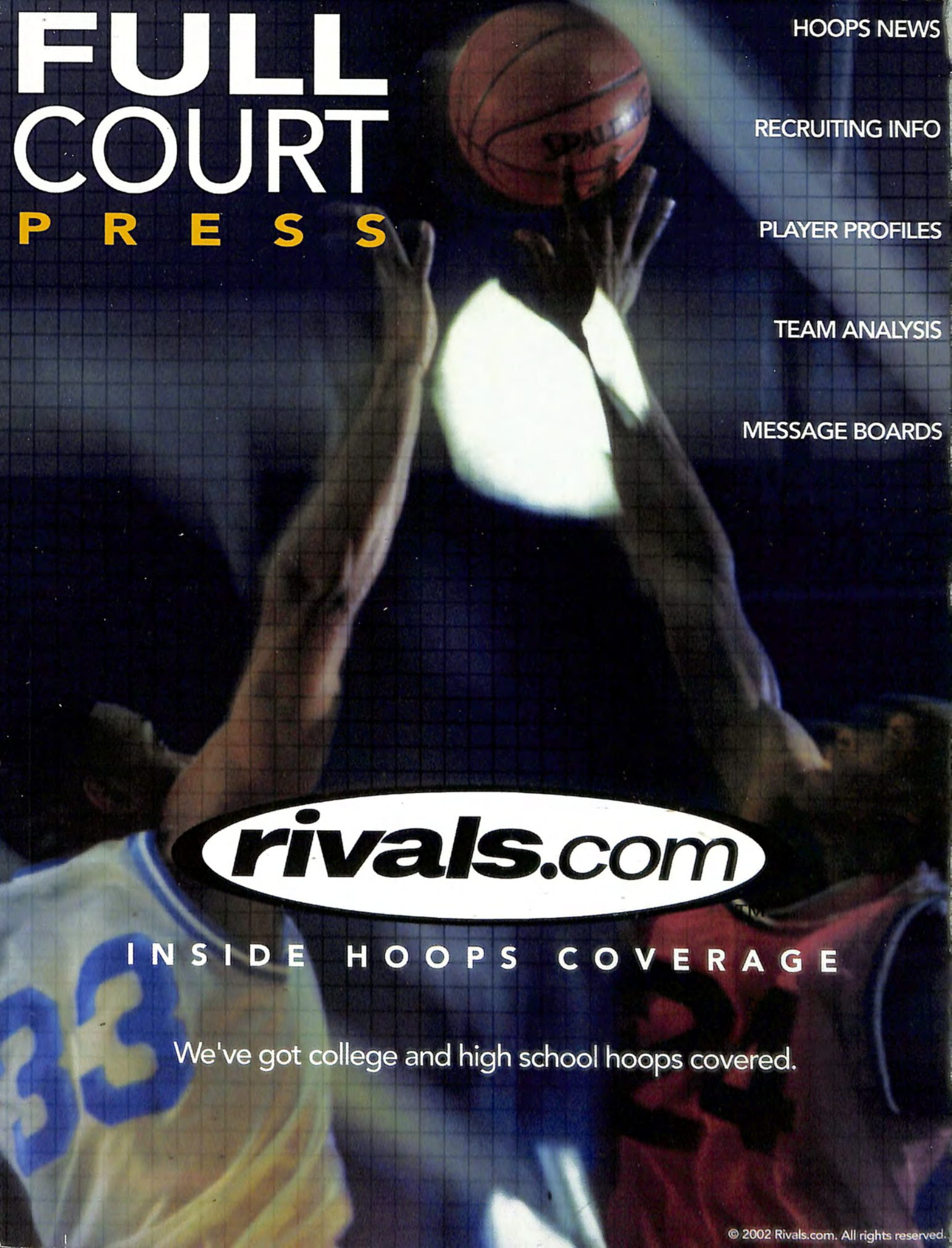

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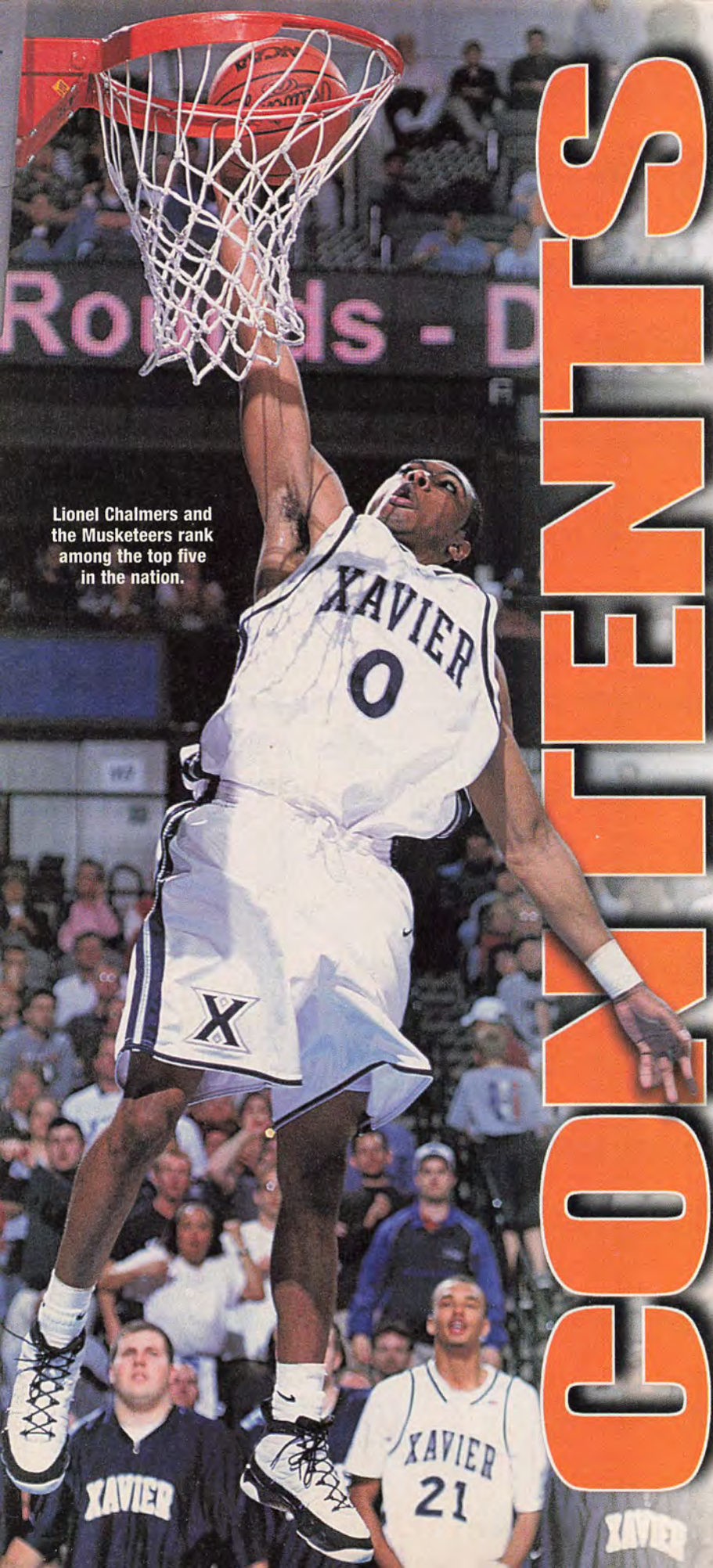

Lionel Chalmers and the Musketeers rank among the top five in the nation.

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ROBERT SEALE / TSN

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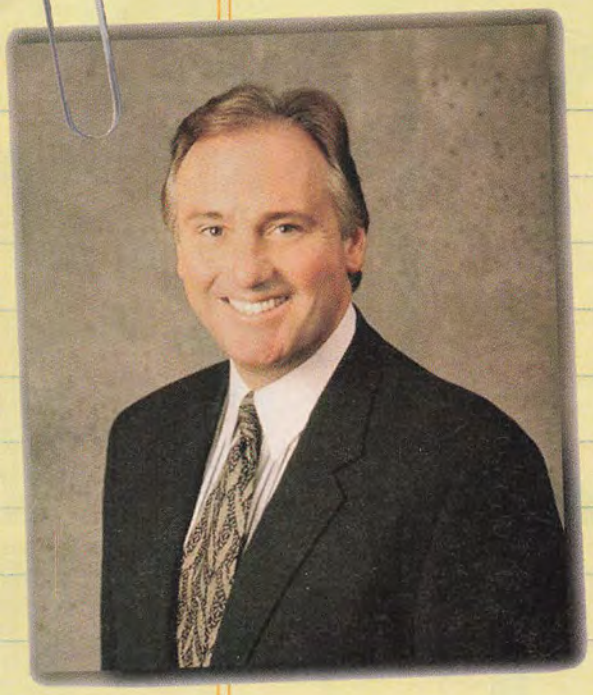

SCOUTING REPORT

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Born: February 27, 1956

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SCOUT the NATION

Kansas knows its lack of depth is a potential problem. But the Jayhawks have five good reasons this will be the year Roy Williams snaps his national-title drought.

BY MIKE DECOURCY

Nick Collison will wear a Kansas uniform this winter because he wanted to play more college basketball. He will get that wish—and then some. There are some gosh-darned good Jayhawks preparing to play for coach Roy Williams this season. It's just that there aren't that many of them.

"Our starting five is going to be as good as anybody's," Collison says. "The bench consists of guys who've never had to do anything. That's something that's a big concern for us. We've got five guys who've proven themselves, and we're going to need seven or eight to do what we want to do."

What Kansas wants is its first national championship under Williams, and please spare us the comedy routines and crackpot theories regarding his inability to win one to date. If the Jayhawks miss this time—and the opinion here is they will not—the reason will be something far less sinister than the annual insinuations about their inability to handle tournament pressure. It will be because there aren't enough of them.

KU has just about everything you need to win a national title: a quick, creative point guard in Aaron Miles; a reliable shooter on the wing in Kirk Hinrich; an athletic defender at small forward in Keith Langford; a muscular, aggressive power forward in Wayne Simien; and a tall, tough, productive center in Collison. Seniors Hinrich and Collison provide ample experience. Hinrich is the sort of tenacious

ING

Langford was a pleasant surprise as a sub for Kansas last season. This year, he's a big reason the Jayhawks are favored to win a national title.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

backcourt leader upon which many recent champions were built, recalling the likes of Maryland's Juan Dixon, Connecticut's Ricky Moore and Kentucky's Wayne Turner.

This might not be a great perimeter shooting team, but scoring shouldn't be a problem. This program routinely generates 50 percent shooting and 90-point scoring.

Behind the first flock of Jayhawks, though, are guys who scored a combined 35 points against Division I opponents last season. A perimeter player is absent in the incoming recruiting class, which leaves sophomore Michael Lee to back up both guard positions and junior Bryant Nash behind Langford. In the frontcourt, junior college transfer Jeff Graves and lean freshman Moulaye Niang (6-9, 205) back up Collison and Simien.

"I've always thought you can't build depth unless you play them," Williams says. "We're going to give them a chance. We're going to give them an opportunity to play. The only thing is that the schedule is so darned tough."

Kansas did itself few favors in the depth-building department by crowding the schedule with the Preseason NIT and games against Oregon, Tulsa, UCLA, California and Arizona in addition to the battles in the Big 12, the nation's most challenging conference. There are two games scheduled against D-II opponents that will get the reserves on the court, but the opposition presented by Emporia State will be far less than what Michigan State might deliver in the NCAA Tournament.

"We do have five guys that have proved they can do it at this level," Williams says. "I know we'll be more dependent on those five guys."

If you consider his career and those of his peers, you'll discover Williams is not behind schedule in claiming his initial title. It took his mentor, Dean Smith, 21 years to win his first championship at North Carolina. When Maryland won it last spring, Gary Williams was completing his 24th year as a head coach. Duke's Mike Krzyzewski had 16 years of experience when the Blue Devils, in 1991, upset UNLV in the semifinals and then beat Kansas in the title game.

That was Williams' third team. This will be his 15th. In 13 NCAA appearances, his teams reached three Final Fours but five times failed to live up to the seed they were assigned. Is that a lot? In the same stretch, Duke fell short six times.

This Kansas group is gaining in confidence. Hinrich and Collison were stopped in the second round as freshmen and in the Sweet 16 as sophomores before breaking through to the Final Four last year. Chris Piper, a former Jayhawk player who now does color analysis for the team's TV broadcasts, remembers how much having reached the Final Four in 1986 meant when Kansas returned in 1988—and won it all. Of the past 12 NCAA champions, six included players with prior Final Four experience, including the past three.

Kansas could make it four. If it were a five-man competition, the Jayhawks might be a lock.

Mo is on Bama's side

If it seemed Maurice "Mo" Williams' effect on Alabama last season could not have been more dramatic, well, it could have been.

The sense of direction Williams added to the Crimson Tide helped lift it from an 8-8 Southeastern Conference record in 2000-01 to a 12-4 mark and the undisputed regular-season title—not bad in a league that sent six teams to the NCAA Tournament. Though he was not a statistical match for some of the other top first-year point guards, that leadership earned Williams TSN's Freshman of the Year award.

Still, Williams was not as aggressive offensively as he can be, and he did not shoot with the confidence of a player who once claimed the 3-point shooting title at the McDonald's All-American Game.

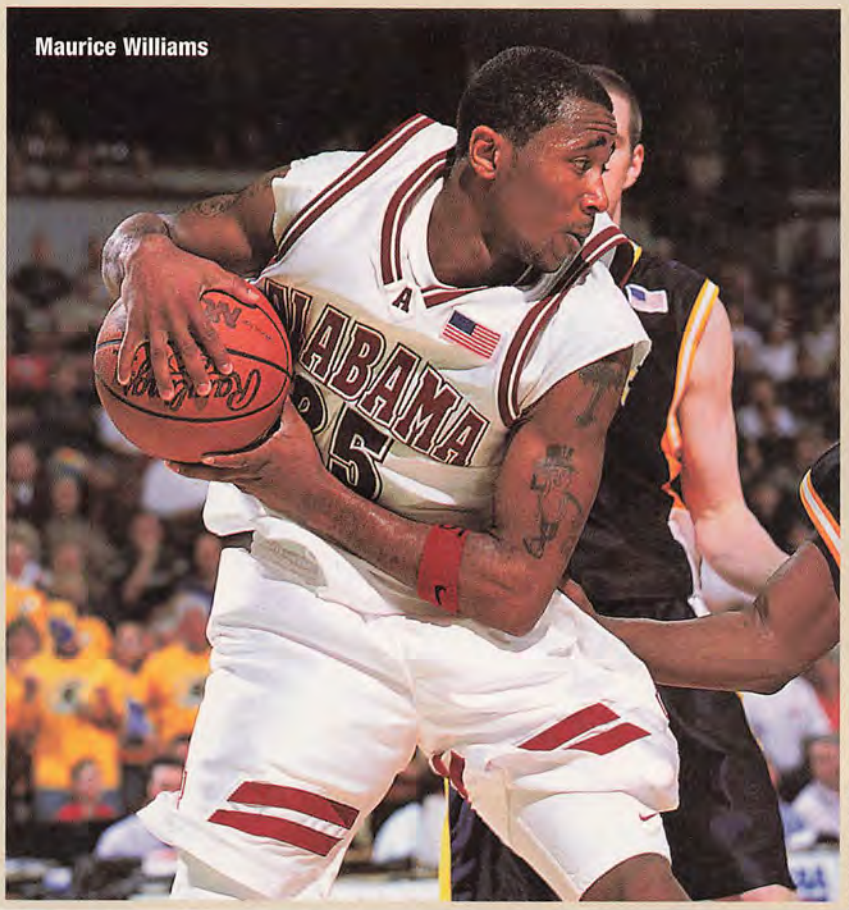
"He worked very hard on his shooting in the summer," Tide coach Mark Gottfried says. "If we tried to zero in on one thing, it was being more comfortable shooting the ball. He shot well last year but could shoot it better."

Though Williams could have attended Michael Jordan's well-known summer camp in California, he opted to stay in Tuscaloosa to work with his teammates and focus on reclaiming his jumper.

Williams tried only 126 3-pointers and 98 free throws last season, compared to 206 and 135, respectively, by Notre Dame's Chris Thomas, another then-freshman phenom at the point. Williams tried not to overwhelm veteran small forward Rod Grizzard, who had NBA ambitions, but this team will have pure shooters at the second guard spot (Terrance Meade and Earnest Shelton) and either a defensive stopper (Lucky Williams) or a raw freshman (Kennedy Winston) in Grizzard's spot.

Alabama will need Mo Williams to do more scoring if it is to advance past last year's disappointing second-round NCAA exit. It'll need more games like the one he had in the first round against Florida Atlantic, when he scored 22 of his 33 points in the second half to turn around a halftime deficit. While Grizzard produced a listless 6 points, Williams went 9-of-13 from the field (3-of-3 on 3s). The Tide looks to build upon that.

"Last year we played like we hadn't been there in a long time, which we hadn't," Gottfried says. "It was a new experience for us; experience is something we hadn't had. We have that now, and, hopefully, it will help us."



Maurice Williams

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

On the road again

By Tim Brando

The innocence of college athletics is long gone, but college hoops still captures the nation's imagination. Why?

Maybe it's because the best team does not always win the national title. Wasn't Dale Brown's 11th-seeded LSU team (still the lowest seed to make the Final Four) in 1986 a great story? What about Villanova's miracle win over Georgetown in '85 and Jimmy V's never-give-up Wolfpack in '83? Every year we have darlings. College hoops gets it.

Many fans believe I'm a college football guy. But college football, for all its tradition, has a postseason that is a disgrace.

The Final Four remains the greatest event in amateur sports.

My predictions of who will be in the running—and who will be far behind—come tourney time:

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

MARCH MARVELS

Looking for a long shot for the office pool?

Louisville. It's not a matter of if but when coach Rick Pitino will win the national title with the Cardinals.

UNLV. Charlie Spoonhour rarely is mentioned when discussing big-time coaches. The uninformed will be enlightened this season.

Pittsburgh. While the Panthers catapulted in the polls last season, they never garnered the national respect they deserved. That will change.

Villanova. Coach Jay Wright combines a mixture of talented returnees with a superb recruiting class capable of returning the team to elite status.

Xavier. The Musketeers have the right ingredients: A durable, diversified starting five that will prove a tough matchup.

RETOOLING

These programs have to take a step back before they can move forward.

Memphis. Memphis is in the "what-might-have-been" situation, with three would've-been Tigers opting instead to enter their name in NBA draft.

Oklahoma State. Is it possible coach Eddie Sutton has lost his touch?

Seton Hall. Two years ago the Pirates were billed as a budding powerhouse. But with the departure of coach Tommy Amaker to Michigan before last season, the foundation has cracked.

Stanford. Without Casey Jacobsen and Curtis Borchardt, Pac-10 title aspirations are too lofty for this cast.

Tennessee. It appeared the program was on the verge of joining the elite. But too much talent left too quickly. Coach Buzz Peterson will get it done, but not this year.

REMEMBER THE NAME

Which team will be the next Cinderella?

Georgia State. Coach Lefty Driesell has a cast that will be feared by major and mid-major opponents alike.

Manhattan. This will be one of the best teams in the Jaspers' history. It has the depth to be a factor.

Tennessee Tech. Last year's 27-7 performance will be the starting point for a team dashing toward national respect.

Western Kentucky. Assuming the injury bug has departed, the Hilltoppers could play deep into March.

Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The program was far down a few years back. This year it will rank as one of the country's best mid-level programs.

Yale. They're playing legit hoops in the Ivy League again, with the Bulldogs joining Penn and Princeton atop the circuit.

FINAL FOUR ... PLUS ONE

Here are the heavyweights capable of landing the knockout blow in April in New Orleans.

Arizona. This is the best program west of Durham, N.C. The return of Jason Gardner has the Wildcats eying another crown.

Duke. Add the desire for redemption to great coaching and a roster chock full of talent, and it equates to a winning trifecta.

Kansas. The more things change, the more they stay the same. The Jayhawks have premier players to compete with anybody.

Kentucky. Never underestimate coach Tubby Smith. An influx of skilled newcomers will breathe new life into the program.

Oklahoma. Last year wasn't a fluke. The Sooners have all the requirements to return to the Final Four. **TSN**

Tim Brando has served as host of CBS Sports' College Football Today and At the Half, CBS Sports' college basketball halftime studio show. Brando also provides commentary for Jefferson Pilot's coverage of SEC and ACC basketball broadcasts. He appears on Sporting News Radio from 3-6 p.m. ET weekdays.

Patriot games

MITCHELL LAYTON FOR TSN

You think it's difficult for NFL forecasters to identify the next team to follow the New England Patriots or Baltimore Ravens and go from nowhere to Super Bowl champion? That whole league has 32 teams. Try fishing the next Oregon or Pittsburgh from the depths of one of college basketball's 31 *conferences*. While you're at it, I'll give it a shot:

Georgia Tech. The Yellow Jackets are young, but coach Paul Hewitt will not allow his players to retreat under difficult circumstances. Last year's bunch recovered from an 0-7 ACC start to finish 7-9. The one concern is freshman point guard Jarrett Jack has to be an immediate success—not a scorer as Tony Akins was, but a competent leader, distributor and defender. Look for sophomore wing Barry Elder to become a star.

LSU. A big man away from competing for an NCAA Tournament berth the past two seasons, the Tigers now have two guys (6-9 JC transfers Jaime Lloreda and Shawnson Johnson) who can help prevent games such as last February's home loss to Alabama, when LSU held the Tide to 18-of-50 shooting but was outrebounded by 16.

UNLV. Since it happened in the Mountain West, not a lot of folks noticed the Rebels closing 13-4 after they started to figure out what new coach Charlie Spoonhour wanted from them. Guard Marcus Banks averaged 17.9 points and 3.3 assists in the final 10 games. Georgetown transfer Demetrius Hunter should be a more reliable backcourt sidekick than since-departed Lou Kelly.

Louisville. It's not exactly novel to be predicting a renaissance for this program, but its recovery is more precarious than many believe. It is largely dependent on junior college recruit Prileu Davis. The Cardinals will win but will not win big unless Davis controls and distributes the ball well enough from the point to lift them from eighth in Conference USA in turnovers and 10th in field-goal percentage. He will.

Not all the good ones are gone

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

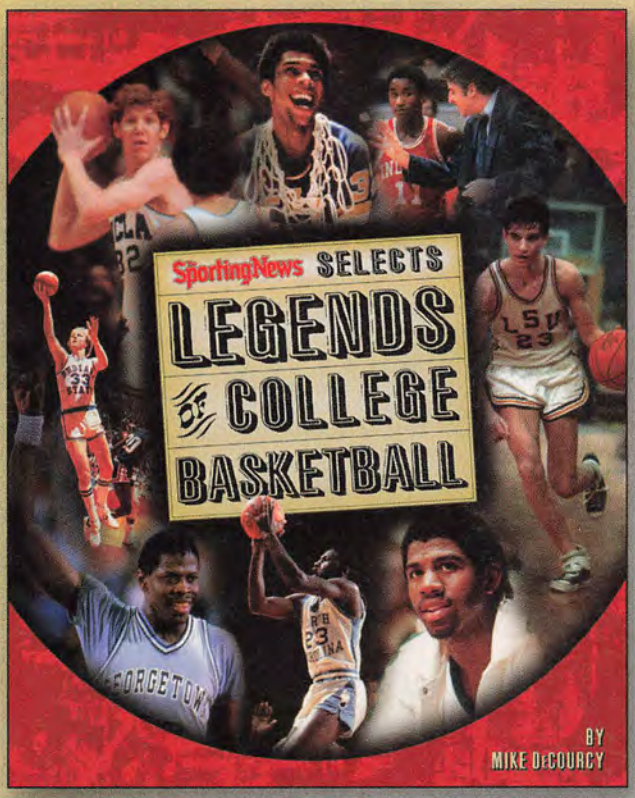
If it seems college basketball loses all its stars prematurely to the NBA, look around at some of the Division I rosters. There are plenty of guys who nearly left for the pros before deciding to stick around campus for another year:

David West, PF, Xavier. West dramatically announced at the Musketeers' 2002 team banquet that he would return for his senior season. After absorbing tremendous physical pressure as the team's lone big man, he at last will have company on the baseline this year. With a supporting cast that also includes shooting guard Romain Sato, West could parlay his decision to put off the NBA into a trip to the Final Four.

Mario Austin, C, Mississippi State. Austin, who twice has pondered entering the draft, has been so caught up with becoming a pro that he only occasionally has played like one. After demonstrating superior passing skills as a high school senior, he went through 19 games with one or no assists last season. He had only seven double-figure rebound games. He is better than that.

Jason Kapono, SF, UCLA. On a team that lacks a comfortable playmaker and otherwise is missing sturdy leadership, Kapono has the juice to get the Bruins' attention. Kapono, who entered the NBA draft following his freshman season in 2000, never will be a great defender but can expend more energy in that area. He is a superior deep shooter, but his excellent free-throw shooting demands that he drive the ball more—to the lane, not the rim—and get himself fouled.

Chris Marcus, C, Western Kentucky. After missing much of his junior season with foot problems, Marcus unexpectedly withdrew from the draft and underwent surgery. He hopes to be ready this fall. The more he plays, the more WKU climbs as a national contender. He's big enough to completely foul up opponents in the lane. He is mobile enough to avoid dragging down his teammates. The college game doesn't often get to enjoy a gifted, powerful 7-footer.



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Big Blue

100 Years of Kentucky Wildcats Basketball

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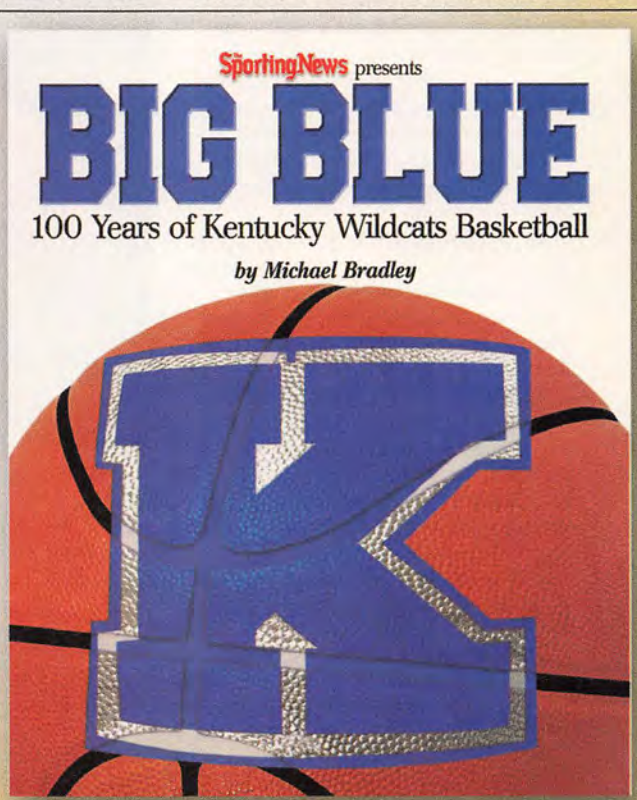


From Wall Street to Bourbon Street

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Chris Duhon & Jay Williams

It has been a tough year for the financial markets, but if you bought into the "stock" recommendations in last year's TSN College Basketball Yearbook, you would have gained winners by latching onto Connecticut and Duke All-American-to-be Mike Dunleavy and by dumping Boston College and Conference USA. Five of our seven recommendations were hits, which is more than you can say for the S&P 500. This year's portfolio moves:

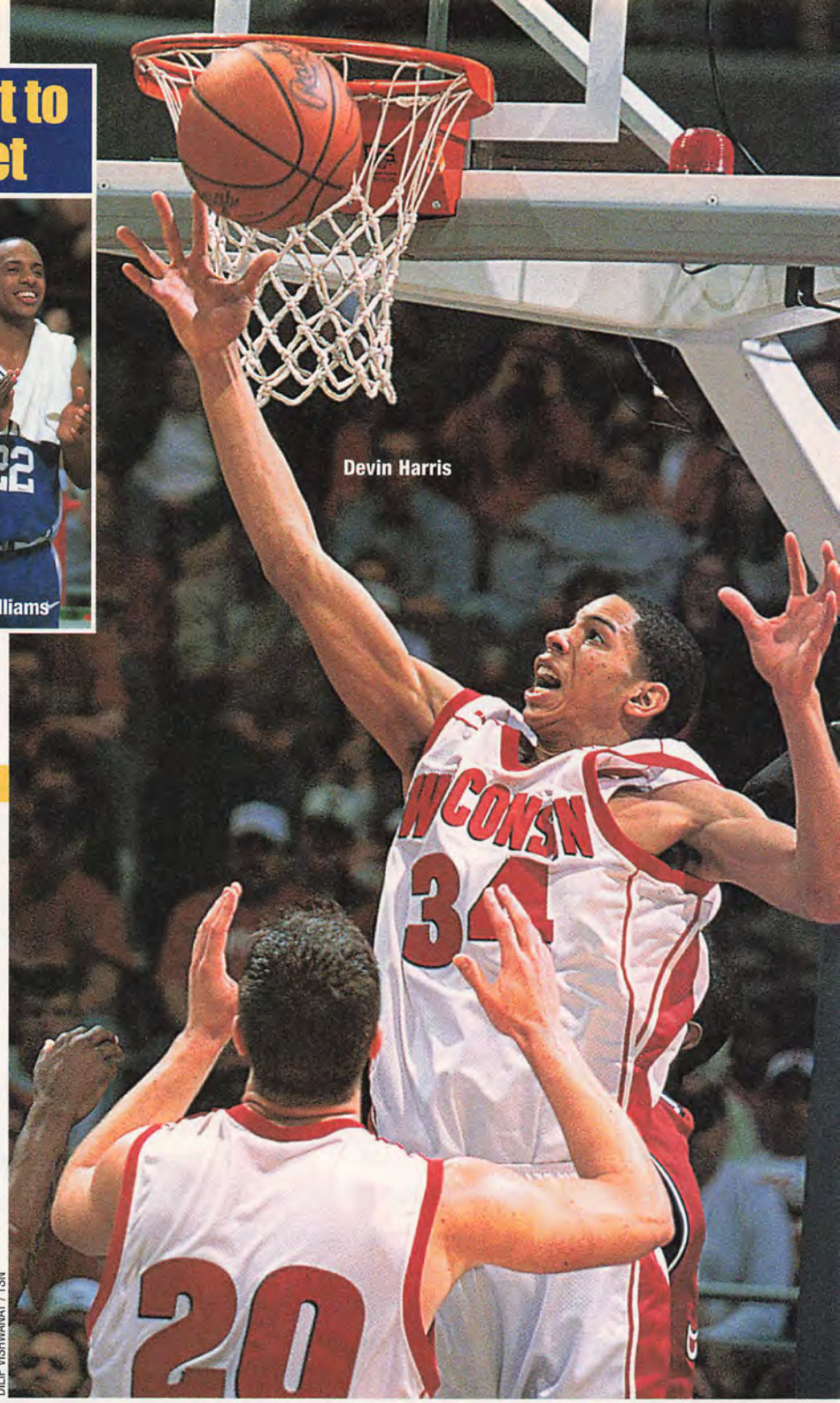
Buy

Wisconsin. The Badgers may not win the Big Ten, but they eventually should flirt with a Top 25 ranking. Mike Wilkinson and Devin Harris were two of last year's best freshmen, and big center Dave Mader will continue to improve.

Chris Duhon, PG, Duke. He was a player without a role last season. He couldn't control the offense, as teammate Jay Williams had to have the ball to be effective. When Duhon is in charge, he is the total package at point guard: efficient, creative, a sterling passer, an accurate shooter and a fine defender. You will see more structured sets from Duke, in part because running them is another of Duhon's strengths.

Boston College. After a year of relying on too many jump shots and struggling to defend quality opponents, the Eagles could be back in the chase for a Big East title, thanks to the return of Troy Bell and Ryan Sidney in the backcourt.

Kelvin Torbert, SG, Michigan State. Everybody has forgotten that few freshman wings truly dominate (consider Vince Carter, Michael Jordan and, from the Spartans' stable, Jason Richardson). Torbert is powerful, dynamic and a terrific deep shooter when he's feeling it. Getting Torbert good shots will be more of a focus now that Marcus Taylor, a scoring point guard, took himself out of the picture by declaring for the draft.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Devin Harris

Sell

Oregon. The Ducks have two of the game's best players in Luke Jackson and Luke Ridnour, but there's not enough around them to approach last year's achievements (Pac-10 title, NCAA Elite Eight). This will be a good team, not a great one.

Salim Stoudamire, SG, Arizona. There's a lot to like about Stoudamire, who is a capable shooter and efficient ballhandler. But with Jason Gardner and Luke Walton on the perimeter—one not big or strong, the other not exceptionally quick—Arizona's defense is too easy to penetrate. To fix that, Stoudamire may lose minutes to freshmen Hassan Adams or Andre Iguodala—most likely Adams. Stoudamire still will be valuable, but his numbers will not reflect that to the same degree.

Virginia. The Cavaliers weren't great to start with, and from that team they lost three of their four top scorers, including star Roger Mason, as well as promising young big man J.C. Mathis. And this team's supposed to be a top 15 squad? What are others seeing?

Ebi Ere

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Hidden subtext

You know some of the obvious stuff that will help determine how the 2002-03 season develops: the progress of Duke's freshman class, how well Georgia compensates for its lack of size, whether Kentucky can set aside its off-court problems. These are the less obvious keys to the season:

Oklahoma's offense. The Sooners averaged 81.8 points when they got 18 or more from power forward Aaron McGhee, who ended his career in the Final Four. In other games, they averaged 74.9. Oklahoma doesn't need to replace his points to win. The defense will take care of that. But if we're talking about winning a championship, the Sooners will have to find some inside balance to what should be an enhanced wing attack from Hollis Price and Ebi Ere. The top inside option might have to be freshman power forward Kevin Bookout.

Xavier's seed. Since joining the Atlantic 10 in 1995-96, Xavier has earned four NCAA bids with an average record of 23-6 but never has been seeded higher than sixth—including last season, when the Musketeers were No. 14 in the RPI rankings and No. 22 in the AP poll but were seeded seventh in the West Region. It's as if they never left the old Midwestern Collegiate Conference. Xavier has boosted its non-conference schedule by adding Alabama, Mississippi State and a Preseason NIT appearance. If you want to last in the NCAA Tournament, seedings do matter. With the exception of the curious 2000 season—when chaos was created in part by pre-tournament injuries to Arizona's Loren Woods and Cincinnati's Kenyon Martin—no team has reached the Final Four without being a top five seed since 1993.

Virginia's defense. There is opportunity to climb in the ACC, given that 19 of the league's top 25 scorers from last season are gone. But the Cavaliers aren't going to do it without repairing their defense, which surrendered 80-plus points seven times in a 3-8 finish. Transfers Nick Vander Laan (California) and Todd Billet (Rutgers) give the team two more capable players, but neither was a defensive force at his prior school. It should help, though, that Pete Gillen hired former Boise State coach Rod Jensen to concentrate on improving the Cavs' defense.

Minnesota's transition. The Gophers were on the verge of breaking through to an NCAA appearance, but the offense stagnated for lack of consistent playmaking. In six losses over the final 10 games, the Gophers averaged 63.5 points. If there were more (any?) pressing teams in the Big Ten, it might have been worse. Junior Ben Johnson, who is 6-3, 185, started every game in two seasons at Northwestern. He proved he can score, averaging double figures both seasons, but did not function as a true playmaking point guard. That's the plan with the Gophers, and his success in the transition game will be the decisive factor.

Last call

Four years ago, they were among the brightest stars in prep basketball and expected to achieve greatness in college. The bad news: That hasn't happened. The good news: They still have a year to make it happen. The college game could use a few more senior stars:

Brett Nelson, G, Florida. Since that brilliant stretch in his freshman year when his playmaking drove the Gators to the 2000 NCAA championship game, Nelson has frustrated coach Billy Donovan with his refusal to function like a point guard. Last season, Nelson attempted 110 more shots than center Udonis Haslem—even though Haslem hit 56 percent and Nelson 39. Nelson's 4-of-19 effort against Creighton in the first round of last season's NCAA Tournament might have been the most self-destructive performance in the event. He has the gifts to be the best point guard in the college game. Instead, he has been a middling shooting guard.

Keith Bogans, SF, Kentucky. Prep scouts assumed Bogans' strength would serve a considerable purpose in college. But the best wings are either pure shooters or extraordinary athletes, and he is neither. The sooner he realizes he's not a great pro prospect, the sooner he can commit himself to becoming a positive member of a successful team. There's no excuse for Bogans attempting 165 3-pointers when he's making less than 32 percent of them.

Casey Sanders, C, Duke. Strength was the obvious issue for Sanders when he joined the Blue Devils. Now he has muscles but hasn't put them to use. He must demonstrate greater mental and physical toughness. Sanders will have the chance to start as long as he plays with intensity or as long as it takes freshmen Michael Thompson and Shelden Williams to learn the college game—whichever comes second.

LaVell Blanchard, SF, Michigan. There was a time during the last three seasons when it seemed Blanchard was ready to advance. Naturally, he wasn't wearing a Wolverines uniform. It was at the USA Basketball trials in June 2001, when he attacked defenses for pull-up jumpers and made long-range shots. The rest of the time, he has been dragged into the Michigan morass—and allowed it to happen. The Wolverines were 19-36 in his sophomore and junior seasons. Having a legitimate point guard in freshman Daniel Horton may result in better shots and a senior season Blanchard can enjoy. **TSN**

E-mail senior writer Mike DeCourcy at **decourcy@sportingnews.com**.

Keith Bogans

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

TSN's TOP 25

Can-do Kansas

Seeing the Drew Gooden-less, supposedly underachieving Jayhawks atop the preseason poll may cause a double take, but take a long look at what they offer before dismissing them as the national title favorite

By Mike DeCourcy

1 Kansas Some of your friends will issue Pavlovian responses to the sight of KU at No. 1. They will call the Jayhawks soft, tournament underachievers, perhaps even chokers. They will make jokes about the inevitability of coach Roy Williams exiting the NCAAs in tears. Tell them that although you're concerned about Kansas' perimeter depth, that's not enough to dismiss a team with PG Aaron Miles' speed, two post scorers in Nick Collison and Wayne Simien and a potential defensive stopper in third G Keith Langford. Tell them Kansas is the only team placed in the top half of the last four NCAA Tournament brackets to hold its seed each time. Tell them SG Kirk Hinrich is as tough as any recent tournament hero: Juan Dixon, Shane Battier, Mateen Cleaves. Those friends might have been right in the past, but each year brings every program a chance to rewrite its tournament history.

2. Arizona SF Luke Walton and PG Jason Gardner are contenders for Pac-10 Player of the Year, and neither may be the team's best if C Channing Frye continues to develop. Frye still is a sophomore, though, and that underscores concern about the team's abundant youth. Counting PF Rick Anderson, there are three reliable seniors, but a lot of the guys who matter are freshmen and sophomores. That could be a problem, as could the likely playing time crunch. Coach Lute Olson's greatest concern may be maintaining harmony.

Channing Frye

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

3. Oklahoma Rather than returning to Norman following elimination from last year's Final Four, the Sooners stuck around Atlanta to see what they were missing—and what they might attain in 2003. What they are missing most is the offensive might provided by PF Aaron McGhee. He forced defenses to gather inside to stop him, which provided greater opportunities for SG Hollis Price and SF Ebi Ere. McGhee was not a great rebounder or defender, so the Sooners should be better at both—and they already were quite good on defense. But generating the necessary offensive cohesion and finding clutch inside baskets will be a challenge.

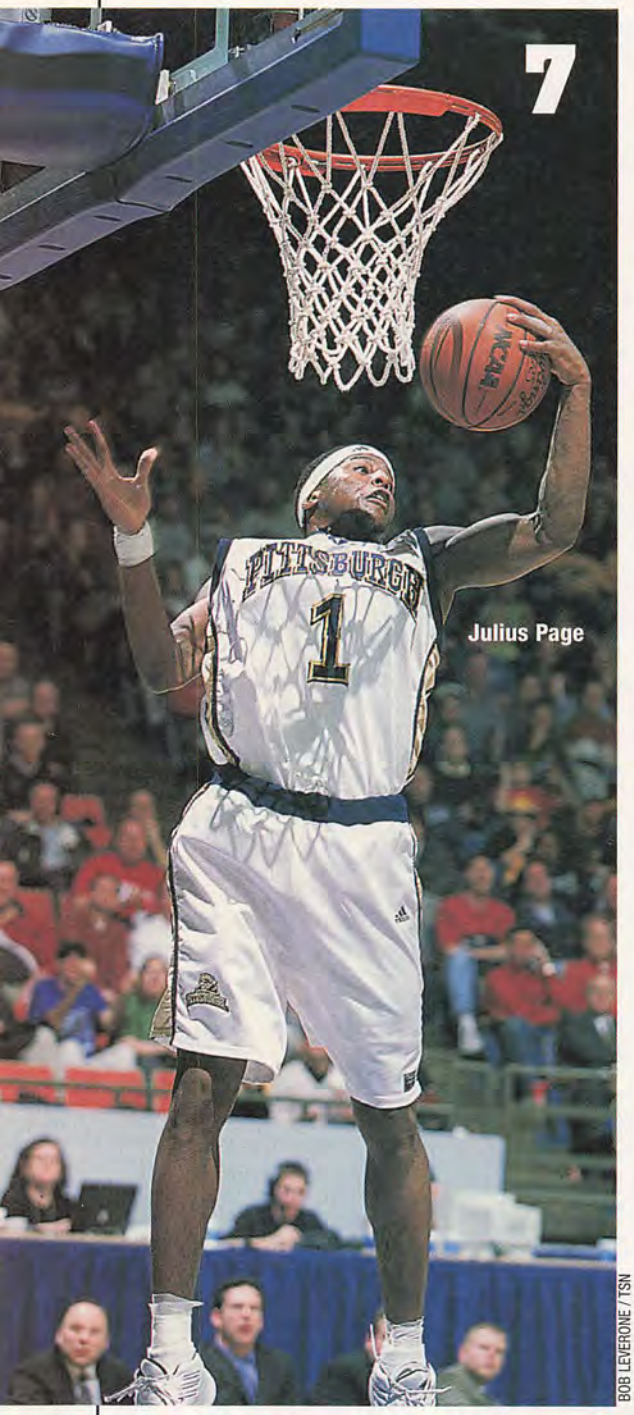
4. Alabama Losing SF Rod Grizzard is bigger than his detractors suggest. Alabama will have to find rebounding, defense and scoring punch to approach repeating last season's unlikely SEC title. The absence of Grizzard's shot-happy approach will leave more opportunities for PF Erwin Dudley, who must demand the ball more in the post. PG Maurice Williams understands winning as well as anyone at his position. He will absorb some of Grizzard's scoring and get the ball to others who can shoot.

5. Xavier An Atlantic 10 team this high? No matter what conference this club belonged to, it would rank among the favorites—especially now that there are enough big bodies to move star David West to forward and free him to play with greater aggression. SG Romain Sato is one of the

Collison, an inside force who also can run the floor, is a big reason the Jayhawks will finish No. 1.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

best athletes at his position. There also is more help for PG Lionel Chalmers, whose turnovers were inflated by fatigue. The team should have an even better understanding of coach Thad Matta's halfcourt schemes.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

6. Texas Imagine how many assists T.J. Ford might have had last year if big men Brian Boddicker and Jason Klotz were finishing plays as efficiently as, say, William Shakespeare. Perhaps it was simply the shock of shifting from a plodding style to an open-court game. Ford is the best passing point guard to play a second college season since Jason Kidd was at California in 1993-94. Freshman Brad Buckman joins athletic marvel James Thomas on the inside. One more ingredient that may be necessary: Ford hitting more of his own shots. He won't get assists for that but perhaps a trip to the Final Four.

7. Pittsburgh Nothing the Panthers did last year—not winning the Big East title and 29 games or making a Sweet 16 appearance—was as amazing as their success in getting Pittsburgh interested in basketball. The city ordinarily prefers Steelers draft talk, but the Panthers' unselfishness charmed fans into filling Fitzgerald Field House. Now, Pitt has to follow its success, and the fans have another 6,000 seats to buy at the new Petersen Events Center. Chemistry and the remarkable control wielded by PG Brandin Knight were most responsible for last season's achievements. SG Julius Page, SF Jaron Brown and PF Donatas Zavackas are capable, but each is dramatically better when they work together.

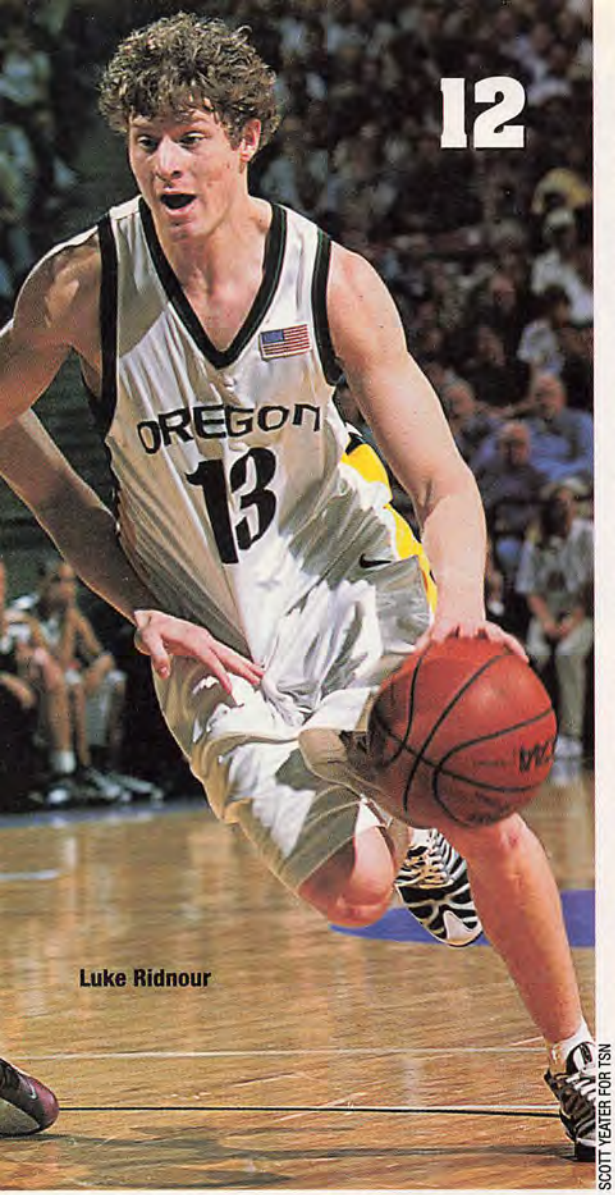
8. Florida If we knew which Brett Nelson would show up, it'd be easier to know where to place the Gators. The Nelson from the 2000 NCAA Tournament could lead them to New Orleans. The guy who since has shown little interest in playing the point and operated judiciously as a shooting guard could take them home early. The best news about the search for offensive direction is that PF David Lee, a splendid frontcourt passer, should get regular minutes alongside reliable Matt Bonner. They've added a couple more potent weapons in PG Anthony Roberson and SF Christian Drejer. That will make them more difficult to defend but could create uneasiness among players expecting an expanded role—notably sophomore SG James White.

9. Duke The six-pack Mike Krzyzewski has brought to Durham has nothing to do with abdominal muscles or malt beverages. Programs can't offer more than five scholarships, but Krzyzewski brought in six top-100 recruits by getting SF Lee Melchionni to walk on and join SG J.J. Reddick, PG Sean Dockery and big men Shelden Williams, Michael Thompson and Shavlik Randolph in trying to replace Jay Williams, Mike Dunleavy and Carlos Boozer. Duke still has a perimeter nearly any program would take: PG Chris Duhon, SG Daniel Ewing and SF Dahntay Jones. Duhon rummaged for a role last year but never found one. Now, he is in command. Duhon may be as important as any player in the nation.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

10. Michigan State The point guard scheduled to lead this team to a fourth Final Four in five seasons, Marcus Taylor, was convinced that struggling to make it in the NBA as a second-round draft pick was a better way to spend his time. Thus the Spartans have everything to win big but the most important piece. The team brought in junior college PG Rashi Johnson but will begin with Chris Hill at the point, and you don't see teams getting far with converted shooting guards running things. All the other pieces are in place for a Big Ten title, including SG Kelvin Torbert. Coach Tom Izzo also has to work in PF Erazem Lorbeck and C Paul Davis, who are ready to contribute.

11. Mississippi State Last year, the Bulldogs played so few high-major teams in non-league games that no one bought them as a national contender until they finished 9-1. The schedule is better, but the team also needs to improve the flow of the offense. C Mario Austin needs to get more consistent access to the ball, and PG Derrick Zimmerman needs to be as



Luke Ridnour

SCOTT YEATER FOR TSN

energetic as he is efficient. This team needs to remember that just because they ring cowbells at MSU football games doesn't mean the hoops team should be grazing.

12. Oregon It is hard enough to find a Pac-10 team on TV, let alone one that figured to be second-division, so it's understandable why the Ducks flew under the radar last season. Now that they matter, everyone should get the chance to discern the difference between Luke Jackson and Luke Ridnour (Jackson's taller; Ridnour's the nation's best point guard). Without 7-2 C Chris Christoffersen, the Ducks should play at an even faster pace than last season, when they averaged 85 points. Generating points, though, will be tougher without star SG Frederick Jones. The two Lukes will have to increase their production, and freshmen guards Jordan Kent and Brandon Lincoln will need to contribute. Oregon no longer will enjoy the benefits of anonymity. People will be watching.

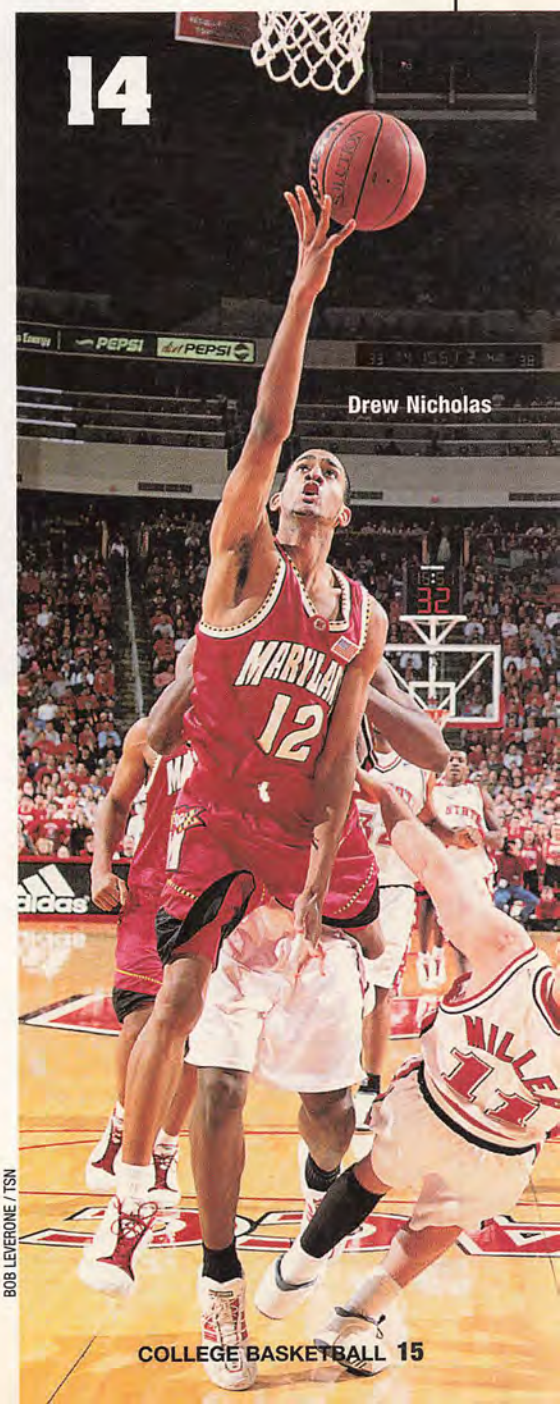
13. Gonzaga The Bulldogs soon may be unable to claim status as America's favorite little team. The last step in shedding that label is continuing this level of excellence without star PG Dan Dickau. The frontcourt, which features PF Cory Violette, has five players who could contribute with any program. Still, this group will have to improve defensively and on the boards. No player's performance will be as important as that of Blake Stepp, who assumes Dickau's playmaking job. Stepp is not as quick but should make good decisions and plenty of long-range shots. If he's a big-time point guard, Gonzaga will leave no doubt it is a big-time team.

14. Maryland Relax? Gary Williams? Not a chance. You can bet the Terps will look at this ranking—and the position of those hated Blue Devils, five spots up—and find sufficient motivation. The Terps still have frontcourt muscle, backcourt experience and coaching intensity. What they don't have is the reliability of SG Juan Dixon or the versatility of PF Chris Wilcox. PG Steve Blake will need to score more. PF Tahj Holden has to start using that big body instead of operating like a 260-pound shooting guard. And SG Drew Nicholas must show he can handle a full-time role. The key player, though, may be junior college SF Jamar Smith, who still hasn't felt what it's like to be No. 1.

15. Western Kentucky The people who claim this no longer is a big man's game are most likely those who don't have a big man. Any one of them would take 7-1 Chris Marcus, whose presence this season at Western is a bonus for the coaches who figured he was off to the NBA. Even with a bad wheel, Marcus had eight double-doubles in 15 games and averaged 15.9 points in 25 minutes. Even when Marcus was hurt, the Hilltoppers did fine without him, emphasizing depth, aggressive defense and long-range shooting. PG Patrick Sparks was an important find and should be better as his body matures and his game expands. Most of the 11-man rotation remains in place to offer support.

16. UCLA. When the Bruins take the regular season seriously, then we'll start taking them more seriously in our preseason poll. Perhaps a change in personalities will help. Freed from the great wait for Dan Gadzuric, this could be an excellent team. Jason Kapono and Dijon Thompson could become the nation's best offensive wing tandem. T.J. Cummings could be an improvement at power forward. Point guard remains the central issue. Cedric Bozeman never recovered from losing time because of an early knee injury. If he's healthy this December, maybe he'll convince his teammates how much those games can count in the end.

17. Marquette Coach Tom Crean has built a worthy challenger to Cincinnati in Conference USA. SG Dwyane Wade ranks among the nation's best, even as he learns to use his astounding athletic ability. Transfer PF Robert Jackson offers the best combination of physicality and skill for Marquette since Damon Key in the mid-1990s. The issue is whether sophomore Travis Diener can handle the point full



Drew Nicholas

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

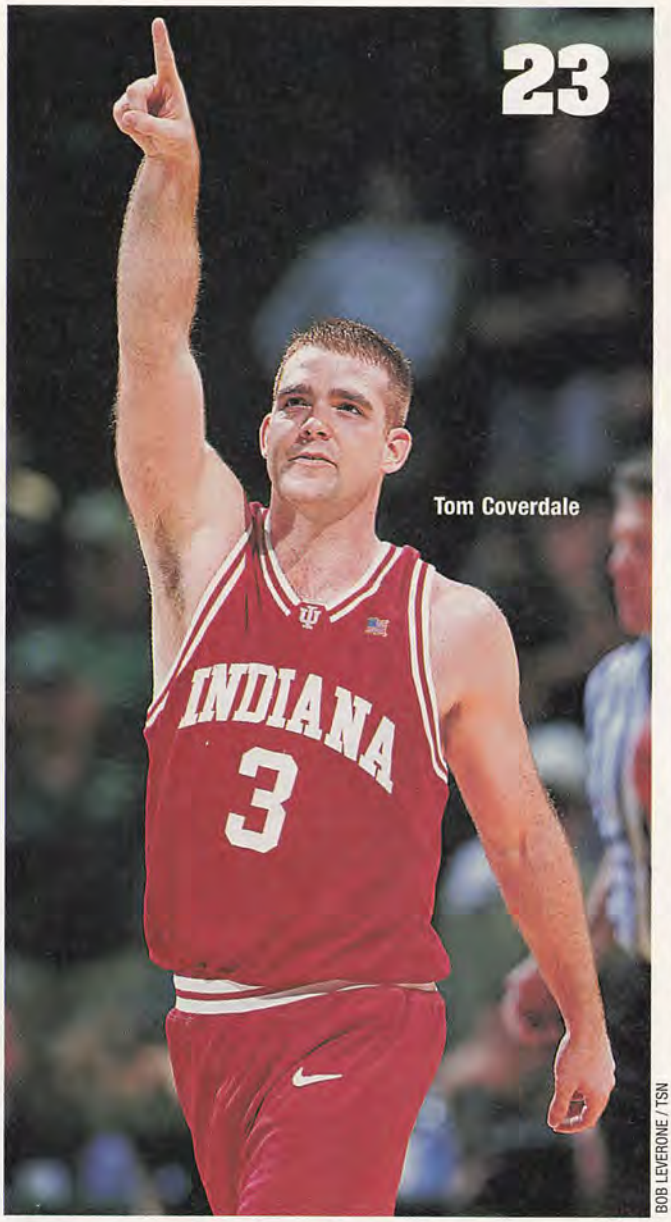
time. He needs to improve his ballhandling, but his toughness should help. Perhaps the time has arrived for somebody else to win this league.

18. Missouri If only Kareem Rush hadn't been tricked into believing he was a lottery pick. … Isn't that the lament? Well, SF Rickey Paulding did not need another year in Rush's shadow. He needs the ball. Paulding has a toughness to him that Rush did not and played the NCAA Tournament as though he was ready to take responsibility for the Tigers' direction. Missouri will have a backcourt featuring a freshman (Jimmy McKinney) and a junior college transfer (Ricky Clemons), but the inside game is solid offensively and could be better if C Arthur Johnson shows some commitment to his conditioning. However, if the Tigers want to compete in a beastly conference, they need to pay more attention to defense.

19. Georgia Expectations are shrinking as rapidly as the roster. Georgia signed three players capable of strengthening and deepening a thin frontcourt but ended up with none because of academic issues. Transfer wing Damien Wilkins plays two positions where the Bulldogs are solid and could cause the same cohesion problems he created at NC State. PG Rashad Wright, SG Ezra Williams and SF Jarvis Hayes make up one of the nation's best perimeters, but the SEC will be more of a frontcourt conference, which could make it difficult for the Bulldogs to defend and rebound.

20. Connecticut No team got more from one player than UConn did from SF Caron Butler. One guy will take his job, but five must account for his contributions. It's possible the Huskies will be bigger inside as Emeka Okafor moves to forward to allow C Justin Brown to play full time. Still, the offense will come mostly from the outside unless Okafor or Brown suddenly unveils reliable post moves. The speed of the three-guard lineup and Okafor's shot-blocking ability will put sting in the defense. One element that could prevent a slight slide: freshman SF Denham Brown pulling a surprise in the same manner star-in-waiting SG Ben Gordon did last season.

21. Tulsa Most programs change players every few years and keep their coaches; the Golden Hurricane gets a new coach every so often, but the players never seem to leave. Is speedy G Dante Swanson working on his seventh year of eligibility? Will he and G Antonio Reed ever leave? Their tenacity attacking the ball chased Marquette from last year's NCAA tourney, but size proved to be an obstacle to continued advancement. This team should be bigger without sacrificing much quickness. Tulsa must be a better big-game team. These guys have played in enough of them by now. They ought to be able to handle it.



Tom Coverdale

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

22. Kentucky Cliff Hawkins wasn't a high-quality point guard last year, and now Kentucky doesn't even have him, as he is ineligible for the start of the season. That leaves the team relying on freshmen Brandon Stockton and Kelenna Azubuike or the succession of players (Gerald Fitch, Keith Bogans) who tried last year but just didn't fit. The removal of C Jason Parker hurts, but he wouldn't have gotten the ball frequently in scoring position. Still, this is Kentucky, so there is talent on the wings and inside, namely Marquis Estill, Jules Camara and rugged Chuck Hayes. Tubby Smith gets more from his teams than most, but when Hawkins returns, he may appear to be a savior. That would be quite an upset.

23. Indiana With Jared Jeffries gone, coach Mike Davis plans a different, more energized look, which is why it's important to be cautious about the number of successful veterans remaining: SG Kyle Hornsby, PG Tom Coverdale, SF A.J. Moye, PF Jeff Newton and C George Leach. Some or all may be in substantially different roles. Coverdale's adaptability to a faster pace will be important. There also has to be somebody who can handle himself physically up front. Newton and Leach are both lean, finesse-type players. Jeffries wasn't muscular, but he could handle himself. He carried IU pretty far last March.

24. Creighton Kyle Korver led the Bluejays in scoring, rebounding and assists as a junior—and he probably could have managed more of each. In a rotation featuring 10 players who averaged at least 12 minutes, Korver got less than 32 minutes and fewer than 10 shots per game. Without SG Terrell Taylor coming off the bench, Korver may get more of a run, which will be better for the team's cohesion and defense. The rest of the roster is nearly intact and may be able to construct the improved defense coach Dana Altman has imagined.

25. Cincinnati The Bearcats appear to be starting without a center or point guard, but—following his flirtation with West Virginia—they have coach Bob Huggins. They also have very good wings in Leonard Stokes and JC transfer Tony Bobbitt. PF Jason Maxiell will become a star. Solid halfcourt defense has been the primary ingredient in the Bearcats' success since 1998, but the lack of playmaking and post play may force Cincinnati back toward the pressing style that gave the current regime its start. The Bearcats don't have two vital areas covered, but they have the most important job filled. **TSN**

E-mail senior writer Mike DeCourcy at decourcy@sportingnews.com.

TSN's 26-323

Virginia underachieved last year, but Keith Jenifer and the new-look Cavs are primed for a big year.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

26. Syracuse*
27. Texas Tech*
28. Virginia*
29. Pennsylvania*
30. Wyoming*
31. Georgia Tech*
32. Minnesota*
33. LSU*
34. Louisville*
35. Southern Illinois*
36. NC State*
37. Ohio*
38. Southern California*
39. Notre Dame*
40. Villanova*
41. Wisconsin*
42. UNLV*
43. Mississippi*
44. Pepperdine*
45. Georgetown*
46. Temple*
47. Ohio State*
48. Hawaii*
49. California*
50. Illinois
51. Rutgers
52. North Carolina
53. Wake Forest
54. Dayton
55. Memphis
56. Brigham Young
57. Boston College
58. Saint Joseph's
59. South Carolina
60. Utah
61. Louisiana Tech
62. Ball State
63. St. John's
64. Oklahoma State
65. Miami (Fla.)
66. Arizona State
67. Tennessee
68. Western Michigan
69. Baylor
70. Stanford
71. Drake
72. Auburn
73. Colorado
74. Charlotte
75. Michigan
76. Wisconsin-Milwaukee*
77. Seton Hall
78. Bowling Green
79. Vanderbilt
80. Akron
81. Northwestern
82. UC Santa Barbara*
83. Iowa State
84. TCU
85. Clemson
86. Murray State*
87. San Diego State
88. Fresno State
89. Providence
90. Tennessee Tech
91. Richmond
92. Washington
93. Miami (Ohio)
94. UNC Wilmington*
95. Purdue
96. Oral Roberts*
97. UC Irvine
98. South Florida
99. Oregon State
100. Butler
101. Georgia State*
102. Arkansas
103. Eastern Washington*
104. Iowa
105. Nebraska
106. Massachusetts
107. Utah State
108. Illinois State
109. Holy Cross*
110. Florida State
111. Hampton*
112. Weber State
113. UNC Asheville*
114. Boston University*
115. Saint Louis
116. Manhattan*
117. San Francisco
118. Louisiana-Lafayette
119. East Tennessee State*
120. Montana State
121. Yale
122. Jacksonville
123. St. Bonaventure
124. San Diego
125. Georgia Southern
126. Kansas State
127. Long Beach State
128. Winthrop
129. Drexel
130. Penn State
131. Washington State
132. Texas A&M
133. Kent State
134. Illinois-Chicago
135. Valparaiso
136. West Virginia
137. New Mexico State
138. McNeese State*
139. Alcorn State*
140. Detroit
141. Marshall
142. Tulane
143. Nevada
144. IUPUI
145. Morehead State
146 Colorado State
147. Wichita State
148. Idaho State
149. SMU
150. Santa Clara
151. New Mexico
152. Arkansas-Little Rock
153. Fordham
154. Princeton
155. Montana
156. Wagner*

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157. Middle Tennessee
158. Houston
159. Vermont
160. Mercer
161. La Salle
162. Virginia Tech
163. Cal Poly
164. Southern Miss
165. Loyola (Ill.)
166. UMKC
167. Northern Illinois
168. Northern Iowa
169. Central Conn. State
170. SW Missouri State
171. Wright State
172. Bradley
173. Air Force
174. Central Michigan
175. Howard
176. Samford
177. New Orleans
178. Rice
179. Toledo
180. Southern Utah
181. George Washington
182. Hartford
183. Indiana State
184. Niagara
185. East Carolina
186. Evansville
187. UTEP
188. DePaul
189. Arkansas State
190. College of Charleston
191. UAB
192. Eastern Michigan
193. San Jose State
194. Oakland
195. Wisconsin-Green Bay
196. Rhode Island
197. Canisius
198. St. Francis (N.Y.)
199. Eastern Illinois
200. Boise State
201. Duquesne
202. Iona
203. Buffalo
204. Colgate
205. UNC Greensboro
206. Va. Commonwealth
207. UC Riverside
208. Brown
209. Austin Peay
210. Davidson
211. Sam Houston
212. High Point
213. Troy State
214. Siena
215. Texas-Pan American
216. Harvard
217. Delaware State
218. Mississippi Valley State
219. Saint Mary's
220. Lamar
221. Furman
222. Hofstra
223. Florida Atlantic
224. Jacksonville State
225. Fairfield
226. George Mason
227. Alabama A&M
228. Coastal Carolina
229. Cleveland State
230. Marist
231. Cal State Northridge
232. Portland State
233. Delaware
234. James Madison
235. Florida International
236. Chattanooga
237. Southeast Missouri
238. Alabama State
239. VMI
240. Western Illinois
241. Columbia
242. South Carolina State
243. Tennessee State
244. Wofford
245. Quinnipiac
246. Pacific
247. Maine
248. Florida A&M
249. North Texas
250. Loyola Marymount
251. South Alabama
252. Cal State Fullerton
253. Northern Arizona
254. Texas Southern
255. Belmont
256. Sacred Heart
257. North Carolina A&T
258. Monmouth
259. Appalachian State
260. Northeastern
261. Sacramento State
262. Stetson
263. The Citadel
264. Md.-Eastern Shore
265. Bucknell
266. Cornell
267. Western Carolina
268. Bethune Cookman
269. Campbell
270. St. Francis (Pa.)
271. American
272. Eastern Kentucky
273. Texas-San Antonio
274. Denver
275. Portland
276. Louisiana-Monroe
277. Robert Morris
278. Binghamton
279. Charleston Southern
280. Idaho
281. Coppin State
282. Rider
283. Centenary
284. Tennessee-Martin
285. St. Peter's
286. Old Dominion
287. Texas A&M-C.C.
288. Albany
289. William & Mary
290. Grambling State
291. Stephen F. Austin
292. Md.-Baltimore Cty.
293. Dartmouth
294. Youngstown State
295. Navy
296. SE Louisiana
297. Jackson State
298. Lafayette
299. Norfolk State
300. Central Florida
301. Elon
302. Towson
303. Morgan State
304. Long Island
305. Radford
306. Northwestern State
307. Lehigh
308. Loyola (Md.)
309. Stony Brook
310. Morris Brown
311. Texas-Arlington
312. Prairie View
313. Southwest Texas
314. Gardner-Webb
315. Nicholls State
316. Southern
317. Army
318. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
319. New Hampshire
320. Liberty
321. Fairleigh Dickinson
322. Mount St. Mary's
323. Chicago State
NR Birm. Southern**
NR IUPU-Fort Wayne**
NR Libscomb**
NR Savannah State**

*Projected NCAA Tournament team.
**NCAA Division I provisional team; not eligible for the NCAA Tournament.

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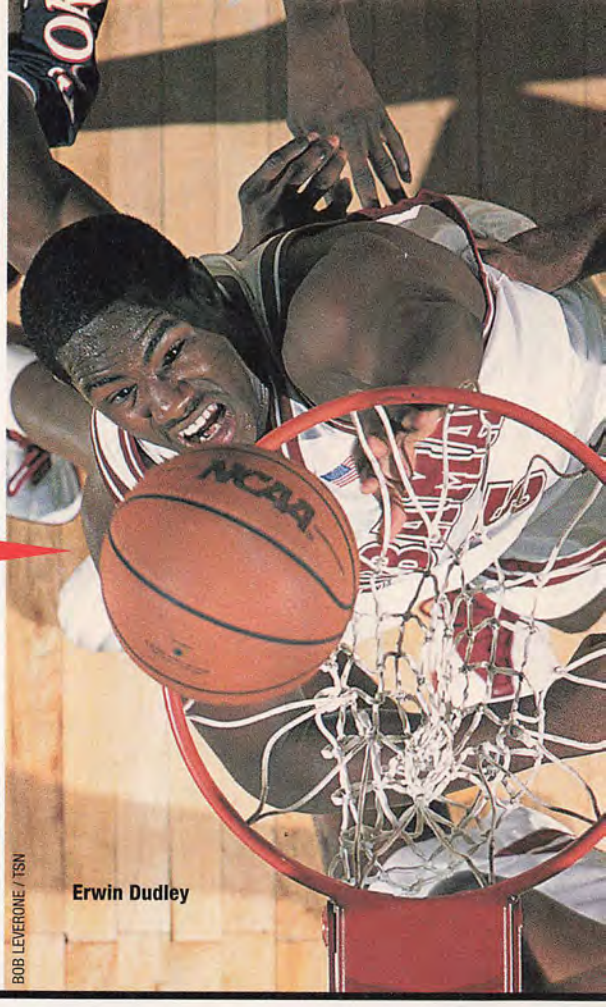
TSN All-American teams

First team

Pos.	Name	Class	Ht./Wt.	School	PPG	RPG	APG
G	Chris Duhon	Jr.	6-1/190	Duke	8.9	3.1	5.9
G	Kirk Hinrich	Sr.	6-3/185	Kansas	14.8	4.8	5.0
F	Luke Walton	Sr.	6-8/241	Arizona	15.7	7.3	6.3
F	David West	Sr.	6-9/240	Xavier	18.3	9.8	1.6
F/C	Erwin Dudley	Sr.	6-8/240	Alabama	15.2	8.9	1.2

Second team

Pos.	Name	Class	Ht./Wt.	School	PPG	RPG	APG
G	T.J. Ford	So.	5-10/165	Texas	10.8	3.8	8.3
G	Luke Ridnour	Jr.	6-2/175	Oregon	15.5	2.9	5.0
G	Dwyane Wade	Jr.	6-4/210	Marquette	17.8	6.6	3.4
F	Rickey Paulding	Jr.	6-5/209	Missouri	11.9	3.9	1.5
F	Michael Sweetney	Jr.	6-8/260	Georgetown	19.0	10.0	1.7



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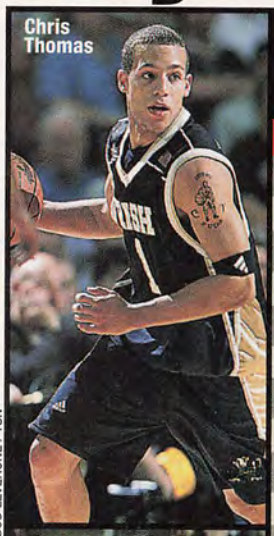
Erwin Dudley

Mike DeCourcy's Player Rankings



Chris Thomas

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Rashad Wright

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Top 20 point guards

Rk. Player, school	Class	Comment
1. Chris Duhon, Duke	Jr.	Last time he ran a team, he conquered the world with the U.S. 22-and-under squad.
2. T.J. Ford, Texas	So.	His passing is high art, but he's working to improve his low-brow shooting.
3. Luke Ridnour, Oregon	Jr.	Was sometimes too concerned with his own shot; now, he'll have to be.
4. Brandin Knight, Pittsburgh	Sr.	A supreme leader who could head this list if he stays healthy.
5. Maurice Williams, Alabama	So.	His speed and leadership lifted Alabama to an SEC championship.
6. Jason Gardner, Arizona	Sr.	Playmaking presence of SF Luke Walton allows him to focus on scoring.
7. Chris Thomas, Notre Dame	So.	Had seven or more assists in 21 of the Fighting Irish's 33 games.
8. Troy Bell, Boston College	Sr.	Increased attention bothered his touch, but he still averaged 21.4 points.
9. Steve Blake, Maryland	Sr.	Maligned for his horrid NCAA Tournament shooting, but he has the ring.
10. Raymond Felton, North Carolina	Fr.	He may be good enough to rescue the Tar Heels from disaster.
11. Aaron Miles, Kansas	So.	Will become great when he plays—and shoots—with sustained confidence.
12. Jameer Nelson, St. Joseph's	Jr.	Averaged 19 points in final 10 games, but Hawks still limped to NIT.
13. Tom Coverdale, Indiana	Sr.	Would like another shot at the Final Four—on two good wheels.
14. Derrick Zimmerman, Mississippi St.	Sr.	Still learning, but no one is more physically imposing.
15. Andre Barrett, Seton Hall	Jr.	Has a gift for pushing the tempo. If only he had better teammates.
16. Antonio Burks, Memphis	Jr.	Moves faster than anyone with the ball. Will help pick up scoring slack.
17. David Bailey, Loyola (Ill.)	Sr.	This 5-8 dynamo had 25 or more points in nine games last season.
18. Rashad Wright, Georgia	Jr.	Has evolved into an efficient playmaker—despite a lack of low-post options.
19. Patrick Sparks, Western Kentucky	So.	A consummate leader who needs only physical improvement.
20. Jake Sullivan, Iowa State	Jr.	Still learning as a playmaker but few, if any, shoot better from long range.

Dwyane Wade

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Ben Gordon

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Top 20 shooting guards

Rk.	Player, school	Class	Comment
1.	Kirk Hinrich, Kansas	Sr.	Scouts love him as much as opponents loathe playing against him.
2.	Dwyane Wade, Marquette	Jr.	Led Eagles in scoring, rebounding, assists, steals and blocks.
3.	Romain Sato, Xavier	Jr.	Outscored Oklahoma's Hollis Price, 28-12, in NCAA Tournament game.
4.	Hollis Price, Oklahoma	Sr.	Mr. Clutch saves greatest plays for biggest moments.
5.	Reece Gaines, Louisville	Sr.	Gets to the free-throw line more than some elite big men.
6.	Ben Gordon, Connecticut	So.	Averaged 12.6 points in only 24.9 minutes—and now his role grows.
7.	Kent Williams, Southern Illinois	Sr.	Accumulated 426 shots and 109 assists—and only 55 turnovers.
8.	Andre Emmett, Texas Tech	Jr.	No one gained more from Bob Knight's hiring—except Knight himself.
9.	Julius Hodge, NC State	So.	Could also play point guard or small forward at an All-ACC level.
10.	Antwain Barbour, Kentucky	Jr.	Made his junior college a champion; Wildcats fans want nothing less.
11.	Ezra Williams, Georgia	Sr.	Shot 33 percent on 3-pointers in losses, 39 percent in wins.
12.	Kelvin Torbert, Michigan State	So.	Challenging freshman year only hinted at his possibilities.
13.	Carl English, Hawaii	Jr.	Invaluable for his shooting touch—and his devotion to rebounding.
14.	Ryan Sidney, Boston College	Jr.	Led Eagles in rebounds, despite playing part of year with broken jaw.
15.	Marcus Hatten, St. John's	Sr.	No telling what he'll do, but most of it turns out well for Red Storm.
16.	Brett Blizzard, UNC Wilmington	Sr.	Once just a shooter, now he's also a leader, playmaker.
17.	Jason Conley, VMI	So.	His 29.3 points per game represented nearly 40 percent of team's offense.
18.	Kevin Martin, Western Carolina	So.	Two single-figure scoring games compared to five 30-point games.
19.	Errick Craven, USC	So.	Until he learns to stay out of foul trouble, he won't fully blossom.
20.	Salim Stoudamire, Arizona	So.	Solid scorer and ballhandler, but can he hold off more athletic newcomers?

Carmelo Anthony

MITCHELL LAYTON FOR TSN

Dahntay Jones

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Top 20 small forwards

Rk.	Player, school	Class	Comment
1.	Luke Walton, Arizona	Sr.	Averaged 36.6 minutes because Wildcats couldn't survive without him.
2.	Rickey Paulding, Missouri	Jr.	His jump to a 15.8 ppg average in NCAAs coincided with Elite Eight run.
3.	Kyle Korver, Creighton	Sr.	The only stat that isn't wholly flattering is his 0.6 blocks average.
4.	Jarvis Hayes, Georgia	Jr.	Athletic, creative. Would rank No. 1 if he had a consistent jumper.
5.	Ronald Dupree, LSU	Sr.	After two sub-.500 SEC seasons, needs team success for complete validation.
6.	Luke Jackson, Oregon	Jr.	A terrific deep shooter who also is highly productive from mid-range.
7.	Carmelo Anthony, Syracuse	Fr.	The Orangemen are fortunate he delayed NBA draft entry.
8.	Jason Kapono, UCLA	Sr.	The best wing shooter; it's time to quit worrying about what he doesn't do.
9.	Ebi Ere, Oklahoma	Sr.	With his power and touch, should shoot better than 42.7 percent.
10.	Dahntay Jones, Duke	Sr.	Subjugated his offense last season; can he remember where he buried it?
11.	Josh Howard, Wake Forest	Sr.	He'd gain consistency if he'd quit showcasing his deep shooting.
12.	Christian Drejer, Florida	Fr.	Scouts insist he's a pro, but can Florida accommodate another scorer?
13.	Kasib Powell, Texas Tech	Sr.	Played a full 40 in seven games—and averaged 18.9 points.
14.	Kirk Penney, Wisconsin	Sr.	Has become more than a jump shooter—he got to the line 112 times.
15.	Ruben Douglas, New Mexico	Sr.	Departures, defections could leave Douglas as a one-man show.
16.	Joe Shipp, California	Sr.	Rugged and unconventional; can battle on the boards or shoot 3s.
17.	Henry Domercant, Eastern Illinois	Sr.	Scored 29 or more points in 15 of 31 games.
18.	Ronny Turiaf, Gonzaga	So.	His offensive versatility causes fear, will lead to breakout year.
19.	Doug Wrenn, Washington	Jr.	By beginning to drive and scrap, saw his scoring average shoot to 19.5.
20.	Brandon Mouton, Texas	Jr.	Became No. 1 scoring option last season but struggled down the stretch.

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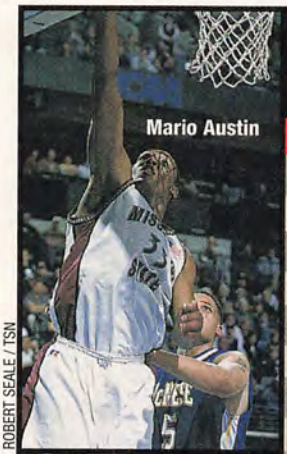
Top 20 power forwards

Rk.	Player, school	Class	Comment
1.	David West, Xavier	Sr.	With inside help, he can play more aggressively and away from the goal.
2.	Erwin Dudley, Alabama	Sr.	Got 10 or fewer shots 16 times in 35 games, hardly acceptable.
3.	Mike Sweetney, Georgetown	Jr.	Averaged 19 points on 11 shots; he needs the ball more.
4.	Rick Rickert, Minnesota	So.	Hinted at greatness with 16.7 scoring average last March.
5.	David Lee, Florida	So.	Brilliant passer could be key to keeping Gators offense flowing.
6.	Jason Maxiell, Cincinnati	So.	Averaged 6.8 rebounds in only 21 minutes but must improve foul shooting.
7.	Cory Violette, Gonzaga	Jr.	Showed ability with run of 10 straight games of 14 or more points.
8.	Justin Reed, Mississippi	Jr.	Must avoid the foul trouble that plagued him much of last season.
9.	Ron Slay, Tennessee	Sr.	Injuries wrecked last season, but his tenacity, athleticism are impressive.
10.	Theron Smith, Ball State	Sr.	Tore ACL during abortive NBA tryout but should average double-double.
11.	Antonio Gates, Kent State	Sr.	He's not tall, but he's strong. Greater offensive responsibilities await.
12.	James Thomas, Texas	Jr.	Limited skills but unlimited athletic ability make him a great rebounder.
13.	Travis Watson, Virginia	Sr.	Limited to five or fewer rebounds in four of final five games.
14.	Lawrence Roberts, Baylor	So.	Dominated at times as a freshman, but team lost final seven games.
15.	Brian Cook, Illinois	Sr.	As skilled as any big man, but lack of intensity keeps him from elite status.
16.	Dalron Johnson, UNLV	Sr.	Averaged 21.2 points and 7.5 rebounds in final six games last season.
17.	Chris Bosh, Georgia Tech	Fr.	Will challenge for national freshman of the year after strong summer.
18.	Kevin Johnson, Tulsa	Sr.	Averaged 16 points, 6 rebounds and 61 percent shooting in NCAA Tournament.
19.	Adam Ballinger, Michigan State	Sr.	Injuries held down his production, but he's the team's most reliable player.
20.	Jermaine Dearman, Southern Illinois	Sr.	25 points, 8 rebounds, 10-of-15 shooting vs. Georgia in NCAAs.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Top 20 centers

Rk.	Player, school	Class	Comment
1.	Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky	Sr.	On two good legs, Marcus has the size and agility to be dominant.
2.	Nick Collison, Kansas	Sr.	Fouled out six times, which could be problematic without Drew Gooden as a partner.
3.	Mario Austin, Mississippi State	Jr.	Shouldn't somebody pass him the ball more?
4.	Emeka Okafor, Connecticut	So.	No one's better defensively, but he needs to learn to function as a scorer.
5.	Matt Bonner, Florida	Sr.	Will shoot lots of mid- and long-range jumpers but also provides inside presence.
6.	David Harrison, Colorado	So.	Overlooked as team lingered near .500 but may have best package of size, skills.
7.	Arthur Johnson, Missouri	Jr.	Looked pudgy this summer, but those who know him insist that's an improvement.
8.	Jason Fraser, Villanova	Fr.	Don't expect huge scoring numbers at first, but he'll rebound and defend.
9.	Ugonna Onyekwe, Penn	Sr.	Shooting touch is too good to hit just 63 percent at the line.
10.	Uche Nsonwu-Amadi, Wyoming	Sr.	NBA scouts loved his athleticism during his brief stay on draft list.
11.	Channing Frye, Arizona	So.	Great promise as a rebounder but needs strength to avoid fading.
12.	Brandon Hunter, Ohio	Sr.	Incredible strength complemented by a scoring touch. Lacks consistency.
13.	Zach Gourde, Gonzaga	Sr.	Mr. Consistency had 26 double-figure scoring games.
14.	Marvin Stone, Louisville*	Sr.	He has been unreliable, but Cardinals coaches swear he's a born-again worker.
15.	Jabahri Brown, Oklahoma	Jr.	He's thin and his offense shaky, but he impacts games with his blocks.
16.	Earl Barron, Memphis	Sr.	Poor year resulted from reticence and role confusion, but talent is there.
17.	Haim Shimonovich, Hawaii	Jr.	With Predrag Savovic gone, he should be more of an offensive focal point.
18.	Raitis Grafs, Valparaiso	Sr.	Fares better against someone his size; scored 21 on Kentucky, 17 on Purdue.
19.	Keith Waleskowski, Dayton	Jr.	Improving as face-up center but needs more confidence in perimeter shot.
20.	Ed Nelson, Georgia Tech	So.	Though undersized, he is relentless and will have more help.

*Transfer is eligible after the fall semester.

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Unit rankings

FRONTCOURTS

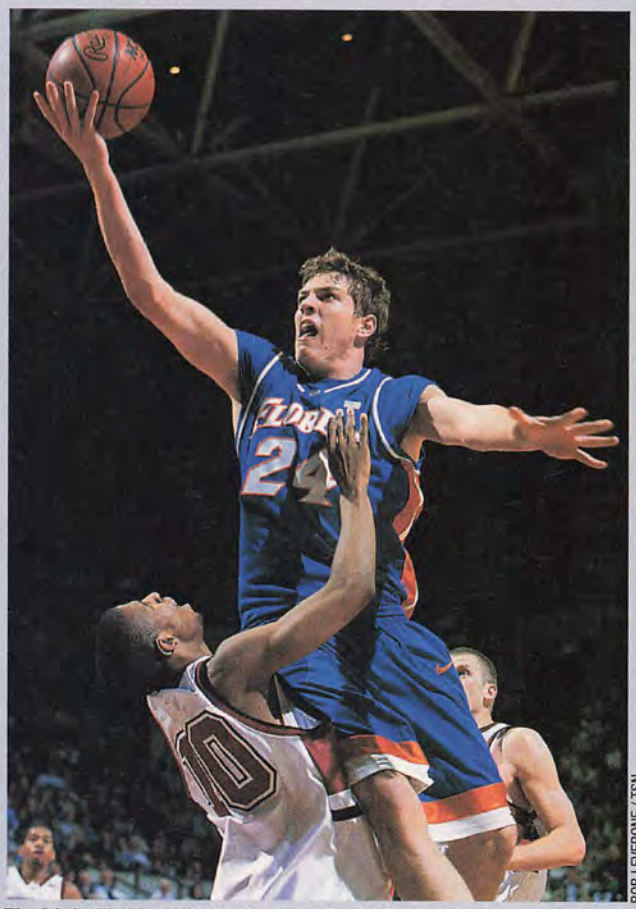
By Kyle Veltrop (Projected starters in bold.)

1. Arizona (**Rick Anderson**, Isaiah Fox, **Channing Frye**, Andre Iguodala, Dennis Latimore, **Luke Walton**): Everything runs through Walton, who is an exquisite passer but also has a nose for the ball inside. Frye's arrival as a dominant center is slated for this season. Anderson is a skilled shooter who needs to stay focused.

2. Kansas (**Nick Collison**, Jeff Graves, **Keith Langford**, Moulaye Niang, **Wayne Simien**): There is enough talent that even Drew Gooden's departure can be absorbed. Collison is a rock who is close to becoming a star. Simien was brought along slowly last year but is ready for full-time duty.

3. Gonzaga (Richard Fox, **Zach Gourde**, Sean Mallon, **Ronny Turiaf**, **Cory Violette**): When Bulldogs coach Mark Few says this group matches up with any frontcourt around, it's not hyperbole. The Zags led the nation in rebounding a year ago, and the number of quality big bodies is impressive. Gourde and Violette are ready to lead the team now that guard Dan Dickau is gone.

4. Florida (Mario Boggan, **Matt Bonner**, **Christian Drejer**, **David Lee**, Matt Walsh): The only thing holding back the Gators is a lack of a proven post presence at both ends of the floor. But Bonner, Lee and Drejer are highly skilled and someday should be NBA players. Lee, who has a varied repertoire, is ready for the larger role that awaits him.



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Florida's highly skilled big guys include sophomore David Lee, who excels as a passer from the high post and is a dangerous scorer with his ability to finish in traffic.

5. Missouri (**Travon Bryant**, Najeeb Echols, Jeffrey Ferguson, **Arthur Johnson**, **Rickey Paulding**): The high-octane Paulding is a star-in-waiting who is fast developing a complete game. Johnson is a load and a difference-maker as a scorer, rebounder and shot blocker. Bryant is ready for a breakthrough.

6. Michigan State (**Al Anagonye**, **Alan Anderson**, **Adam Ballinger**, Paul Davis, Erazem Lorbek, Adam Wolfe): While Ballinger is the best of the bunch, he may not be for long, as Davis is one of the top big men entering college basketball. Injuries plagued the Spartans last year, but coach Tom Izzo should have plenty of big bodies to stifle opponents.

7. Oklahoma (**Kevin Bookout**, **Jabahri Brown**, Jason Detrick, **Ebi Ere**, Johnnie Gilbert, Jozsef Szendrei, Larry Turner): The loss of Aaron McGhee is significant, but there's still a lot to like, particularly the high-scoring Ere, who should be more potent in his second year as a Sooner. Brown is a defensive difference-maker.

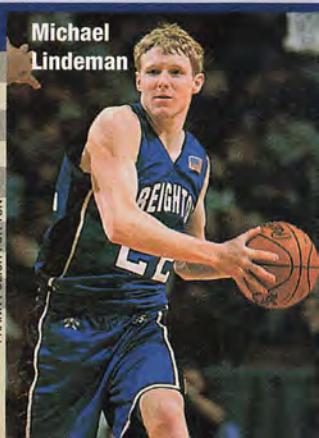
8. Minnesota (**Michael Bauer**, Stan Gaines, **Jerry Holman**, Aliou Kane, **Rick Rickert**): Is this the year Rickert becomes a star? Bet on it. In fact, he may be good enough to carry the Gophers to a title in the watered-down Big Ten. Holman brings a shot-blocking presence, and his scoring should increase as his minutes do.

9. Texas (Brian Boddicker, **Brad Buckman**, Deginald Erskin, Jason Klotz, **Brandon Mouton**, **James Thomas**): Thomas is one of the top enforcers in the land; good luck getting a rebound when he's around. Mouton is the team's best scorer, a dangerous slasher with an improving perimeter game. Buckman is a celebrated freshman who should be steadier than Boddicker and Klotz.

10. Colorado (Lamar Harris, **David Harrison**, **Michel Morandais**, **Stephane Pelle**) Harrison, who shot 63.8 percent from the field as a freshman last season, is poised to become a rarity: a dominant college center. The underrated Pelle averaged a double-double last season; he's relentless on the glass. Morandais has emerged as a capable scorer who is dangerous from the perimeter and in the lane.

Ten other formidable frontcourts (listed alphabetically)

Creighton	(**Kyle Corver**, Joe Dabbert, **Brody Deren**, Mike Grimes, **Michael Lindeman**)
Duke	(**Dahntay Jones**, Shavlik Randolph, **Casey Sanders**, Michael Thompson, **Shelden Williams**)
Georgia Tech	(**Chris Bosh**, Robert Brooks, Isma'il Muhammad, **Ed Nelson**, Luke Schenscher, Theodis Tarver)
Kentucky	(**Keith Bogans**, Jules Camara, Erik Daniels, **Marquis Estill**, **Chuck Hayes**)
Maryland	(Nik Caner-Medley, Travis Garrison, **Tahj Holden**, **Ryan Randle**, **Jamar Smith**)
NC State	(Jordan Collins, Ilian Evtimov, **Julius Hodge**, **Marcus Melvin**, **Josh Powell**, Levi Watkins)
Ohio	(**Steve Esterkamp**, **Brandon Hunter**, **Sonny Johnson**)
Penn	(**Koko Archibong**, **Tim Begley**, Adam Chubb, **Ugonna Onyekwe**)
Pittsburgh	(**Jaron Brown**, Ontario Lett, Toree Morris, **Chevon Troutman**, **Donatas Zavackas**)
Xavier	(**Will Caudle**, Anthony Myles, Angelo Smith, **David West**, **Dave Young**)



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BACKCOURTS

By Kyle Veltrop (Projected starters in bold.)

1. Kansas (**Kirk Hinrich**, Michael Lee, **Aaron Miles**): Quantity is lacking, but quality is not. Hinrich is an exceptional shooter with underrated athleticism. He's as heady as they come. In Big 12 play, Miles had an assist-to-turnover ratio of nearly 4-to-1, unheard of for a freshman. The Jayhawks need Lee, Miles' high school teammate, to be a quality backup, but don't forget Keith Langford also can log backcourt minutes.

2. Arizona (Hassan Adams, Will Bynum, **Jason Gardner**, **Salim Stoudamire**): Gardner isn't a classic point guard, but he is a fearless shooter with great range. Mark him down for 20-plus points per game. Stoudamire showed star potential as a freshman and nearly is automatic from the line. Adams and Bynum could start for a lot of other elite programs.

3. Pittsburgh (Yuri Demetris, **Brandin Knight**, Carl Krauser, **Julius Page**): Knight may not make pro scouts drool, but he makes his opponents in college whimper. He has great synergy with Page, whose defensive-stopper ability headlines his game. Krauser redshirted last year but is in line to capably succeed Knight at the point.

4. Boston College (**Troy Bell**, Louis Hinnant, **Ryan Sidney**, Jermaine Watson): The Eagles' hopes to reverse last year's drastic falloff rest here. Bell is as fine a scorer as any point guard. Sidney proved to be a viable scoring complement last year and is an exceptional rebounder for his size (6-2).

5. Duke (Sean Dockery, **Chris Duhon**, **Daniel Ewing**, J.J. Redick): With no more shadows, Duhon is ready to shine to his maximum capacity. Ewing should be the ACC's breakout performer after a strong March as a freshman. Redick may be the best long-range shooter in the rookie class, while fellow freshman Dockery is the point guard of the future.

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

The Wildcats' backcourt is deep enough that Salim Stoudamire, one of the nation's top freshmen a year ago, will have to fight for minutes as a sophomore.

6. Georgia (Wayne Arnold, Fred Gibson, Damien Wilkins, **Ezra Williams**, **Rashad Wright**): The Dawgs don't have great size, but they have great guards. Wright is a capable quarterback, while gunslinger Williams can fill up the basket. This question lingers: How does NC State transfer Wilkins fit into the mix?

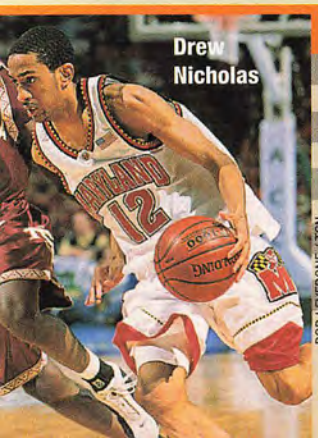
7. Xavier (**Lionel Chalmers**, Dedrick Finn, Keith Jackson, **Romain Sato**): Forward David West is widely considered the best player in the Atlantic 10, but he may not have been better than teammate Sato in the second half last year. Sato is an athletic freak with a dangerous jumper. Chalmers can be inconsistent, but when he's on, he's mighty tough.

8. Oklahoma (DeAngelo Alexander, Blake Johnstone, **Hollis Price**, **Quannas White**): Don't judge Price by his boyish looks; he's a man out there who'll knock down big shot after big shot. White has some limitations, but he keys the defense with his ability to blanket opposing point guards. Hot-shot freshman Alexander is a player to watch down the road.

9. Connecticut (Rashad Anderson, **Taliek Brown**, **Ben Gordon**, **Tony Robertson**): Brown isn't a scorer, but he's a sound caretaker. With Caron Butler gone, Gordon is ready to assume top billing. The versatile Robertson fills out a three-guard lineup that is the team's strength.

10. Texas (**T.J. Ford**, Sydmill Harris, **Royal Ivey**, Kenton Paulino): Ford is ridiculously quick into the lane, and his passing is unrivaled. If his shot improves, he may be the nation's No. 1 lead guard. Ivey deserves the attention he gets for his defensive ability, but don't overlook his fast-improving offense.

E-mail associate editor Kyle Veltrop at **kveltrop@sportingnews.com**.



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Ten other formidable backcourts (listed alphabetically)

Florida	(Rashid Al-Kaleem, LaDarius Halton, **Justin Hamilton**, **Brett Nelson**, Anthony Roberson, James White)
Indiana	(**Tom Coverdale**, **Kyle Hornsby**, Donald Perry, Marshall Strickland, Bracey Wright)
Marquette	(Karon Bradley, Joe Chapman, **Travis Diener**, **Dwyane Wade**)
Maryland	(**Steve Blake**, Andre Collins, John Gilchrist, Chris McCray, **Drew Nicholas**)
Michigan State	(Maurice Ager, Tim Bograkos, **Chris Hill**, Rashi Johnson, **Kelvin Torbert**)
Notre Dame	(**Matt Carroll**, Torrian Jones, Chris Quinn, **Chris Thomas**)
Southern Illinois	(Darren Brooks, **Stetson Hairston**, Bryan Turner, **Kent Williams**)
TCU	(**Junior Blount**, James Davis, **Corey Santee**, Nucleus Smith)
Tulsa	(Seneca Collins, Jason Parker, **Antonio Reed**, **Dante Swanson**)
Wyoming	(**Marcus Bailey**, Chris McMillian, Donta Richardson, **Jason Straight**)

Team previews by Blair Kerkhoff, Kansas City Star, and Jerome Solomon, Houston Chronicle.

Big 12

By Kyle Veltrop

So much for being a March lightweight. The conference shed its history of NCAA Tournament fades last season when Oklahoma and Kansas became the first Big 12 teams to advance to the Final Four. Missouri, which made the Elite Eight, and Texas, which made the Sweet 16, also were strong in March.

And it appears the Big 12 is just getting started. TSN is picking the Jayhawks to win it all and also is projecting that some of their stiffest competition to cut down the nets in New Orleans will come from within. The Sooners and Longhorns can stare down anyone. The Tigers should continue to make progress under Quin Snyder's building plan. And don't forget Texas Tech, which turned Lubbock into a basketball-crazed town in Bob Knight's first season.

Every coach in the league returns, and that stability has helped the conference in its climb. The players, though, ultimately make a league, and the Big 12 may have the nation's best overall player in Kansas' Kirk Hinrich, point guard in Texas' T.J. Ford, rebounder in Texas' James Thomas and dunker in Missouri's Rickey Paulding.

The conference has the components to be a March heavyweight—again.

ASCENDING: Baylor. Don't let the seven-game losing streak that ended last season fool you. Forward Lawrence Roberts and point guard John Lucas were fabulous as freshmen, and they'll be joined by three intriguing junior college players: Ellis Kidd, Terrance Thomas and Robert Hart. There should be enough wing talent to make up for the loss of Wendell Greenleaf, who was dismissed. The Bears could be primed for an NCAA Tournament run.

DESCENDING: Oklahoma State. Like almost every other Eddie Sutton team, this one should play stout defense and challenge for postseason consideration. But the Cowboys appear to be offensively challenged, particularly when it comes to perimeter shooting. Ivan McFarlin is emerging as a force inside, but this team will have to scrap to stay in the upper half of the conference.

PREDICTIONS

1. Kansas*
2. Oklahoma*
3. Texas*
4. Missouri*
5. Texas Tech*
6. Oklahoma State
7. Baylor
8. Colorado
9. Iowa State
10. Nebraska
11. Kansas State
12. Texas A&M

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	T.J. Ford, Texas	5-10	165	So.
G	Kirk Hinrich, Kansas	6-3	185	Sr.
G	Hollis Price, Oklahoma	6-1	170	Sr.
F	Rickey Paulding, Missouri	6-5	209	Jr.
F	Nick Collison, Kansas	6-9	250	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jake Sullivan, Iowa State	6-1	195	Jr.
G	Andre Emmett, Texas Tech	6-5	229	Jr.
F	Lawrence Roberts, Baylor	6-8	255	So.
C	James Thomas, Texas	6-8	220	Jr.
C	David Harrison, Colorado	7-0	240	So.

Player of the Year
Kirk Hinrich, Kansas

Newcomer of the Year
Nate Johnson, G, Nebraska

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Jake Sullivan, Iowa State
Best playmaker: T.J. Ford, Texas
Best dunker: Rickey Paulding, Missouri
Best NBA prospect: Rickey Paulding, Missouri
Most likely to blossom: David Harrison, Colorado
Best rebounder: James Thomas, Texas
Best defender: Quannas White, Oklahoma
Best game coach: Kelvin Sampson, Oklahoma
Most versatile: Kirk Hinrich, Kansas
Will take a charge: Melvin Sanders, Okla. St.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Texas' Brandon Mouton

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Drew Gooden, Kansas. Gooden recorded a Big 12-record 25 double-doubles last season and helped key KU's transition game by getting up and down the floor effortlessly. Wayne Simien has star potential, but he was brought along slowly as a freshman. He has to show he can carry a full-time load and hold up physically.

2. Kareem Rush, Missouri. Rush made big shots and drove defenses to distraction. The good news for Missouri is Paulding is ready to be a star, but he still has to prove he can do it with a target on his back.

3. Aaron McGhee, Oklahoma. McGhee averaged 16 points in the regular season, 17.4 in Big 12 play and 21.8 in the Final Four run. He was the team's best interior scorer and could force big men to defend him from the perimeter. Freshman Kevin

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. **Iowa State:** This excellent class features JC transfers Tim Barnes and Jerome Harper.
2. **Oklahoma:** In-state gems Kevin Bookout and DeAngelo Alexander should help immediately.
3. **Missouri:** Jimmy McKinney and Ricky Clemons should make up starting backcourt.
4. **Nebraska:** Nate Johnson, JC Division II player of the year, headlines a four-player class.
5. **Texas A&M:** Melvin Watkins likens Antoine Wright to a young Penny Hardaway.
6. **Texas:** Brad Buckman is expected to start at power forward for a deep, experienced team.
7. **Kansas State:** Three JC transfers will help, but freshman Marques Hayden is the gem.
8. **Kansas:** Could have done better; only PF Jeff Graves is assured of being in rotation.
9. **Baylor:** JC transfers Terrance Thomas and Ellis Kidd Jr. are expected to start.
10. **Texas Tech:** Lubbock native Josh Washington should help a thin backcourt.
11. **Oklahoma State:** Tony Allen and Janavor Weatherspoon will help replace Mo Baker.
12. **Colorado:** Guards Antoine McGee and Jayson Obazuaye should play right away.

Bookout will help on the boards, but senior small forward Ebi Ere needs to be a consistent complement to off-guard Hollis Price.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Brandon Mouton, Texas. Ford and James Thomas are the headliners in Austin, but Mouton proved capable of being a big scorer after Chris Owens' career ended early last season. Mouton, who averaged 16.5 points in Big 12 play as a sophomore, is improving as an outside shooter, and he's a decent rebounder for a guard. He could average 20 points a game before his career ends.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Ricardo Patton, Colorado. Since 1997, the Buffaloes haven't finished better than a tie for seventh, including ninth-place finishes the last two years. Colorado fans are expecting an NCAA Tournament trip before sophomore center David Harrison departs for the NBA.

BEST BETS: Bernard King will become Texas A&M's career scoring leader by midseason, but freshman wing Antoine Wright will be the team's best player by season's end. … Ford won't become a feared 3-point marksman, but he will improve from last year, when teams dared him to shoot. Ford spent much of the summer working on his shot; he's too good to have such a drastic flaw in his game. … Colorado's inside duo of Harrison and Stephane Pelle will average a combined 30-plus points and 20 rebounds. But the Buffaloes will lack the necessary perimeter game to parlay that into an NCAA Tournament bid. … Missouri, which had a perimeter-oriented offense, will be turned inside out now that Rush and Clarence Gilbert are gone. That means Arthur Johnson and Travon Bryant will get the ball more consistently in the low post, and both should have big years. It will help that backcourt newcomers Jimmy McKinney and Ricky Clemons are selfless and will share willingly. … Colorado's Harrison, Missouri's Paulding and Texas' Ford will declare for the NBA draft after the season.

TSN

E-mail associate editor Kyle Veltrop at **kveltrop@sportingnews.com**.

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Andre Emmett	Texas Tech	18.7
Bernard King	Texas A&M	17.2
Lawrence Roberts	Baylor	16.6
Hollis Price	Oklahoma	16.5
Jake Sullivan	Iowa State	16.0

Name	School	RPG
Stephane Pelle	Colorado	10.8
James Thomas	Texas	8.9
Pervis Pasco	Kansas State	8.4
Nick Collison	Kansas	8.3
Lawrence Roberts	Baylor	8.2

Name	School	APG
T.J. Ford	Texas	8.3
Aaron Miles	Kansas	6.8
Kirk Hinrich	Kansas	5.0
Mookie Wright	Colorado	4.9
Bernard King	Texas A&M	4.7

Name	School	FG%
David Harrison	Colorado	63.8
Ivan McFarlin	Oklahoma State	61.4
Nick Collison	Kansas	59.2
Pervis Pasco	Kansas State	55.8
Arthur Johnson	Missouri	55.1

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Kansas	16	0	33	4	13	0	20	4
Oklahoma	13	3	31	5	16	0	15	5
Oklahoma State	10	6	23	9	13	2	10	7
Texas Tech	10	6	23	9	15	2	8	7
Texas	10	6	22	12	10	5	12	7
Missouri	9	7	24	12	13	3	11	9
Nebraska	6	10	13	15	12	4	1	11
Kansas State	6	10	13	16	12	5	1	11
Colorado	5	11	15	14	12	4	3	10
Baylor	4	12	14	16	12	4	2	12
Iowa State	4	12	12	19	11	6	1	13
Texas A&M	3	13	9	22	5	9	4	13

Ivan McFarlin

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Team stats

Total offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Kansas	37	50.6	71.9	41.8	44.3	20.7	9.6	5.7	16.3	90.9
Missouri	36	45.8	69.0	39.1	39.3	15.0	7.3	4.3	14.2	79.9
Colorado	29	45.3	67.7	35.7	43.1	17.5	6.1	4.7	14.7	79.7
Texas Tech	32	46.6	68.2	37.6	38.4	18.4	7.6	4.2	12.4	79.1
Texas	34	45.3	68.7	36.8	39.9	15.2	6.2	3.9	13.7	78.1
Oklahoma	36	44.3	76.7	35.0	40.0	14.4	9.0	3.7	11.9	78.0
Baylor	30	43.9	71.8	36.6	36.1	17.1	9.3	3.9	14.3	76.5
Oklahoma State	32	44.8	64.4	32.7	40.0	14.4	7.7	3.4	15.2	71.7
Nebraska	28	39.3	67.6	36.6	35.6	14.1	7.3	3.1	11.3	69.8
Iowa State	31	46.1	74.8	38.1	35.6	11.1	5.0	4.2	14.7	69.7
Kansas State	29	44.1	66.4	34.8	35.0	14.1	5.8	4.0	14.4	68.4
Texas A&M	31	41.0	65.2	32.5	36.7	14.8	5.3	3.6	17.2	65.0

Total defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Oklahoma State	32	40.7	68.2	30.7	33.6	11.9	6.9	3.8	15.7	64.1
Oklahoma	36	40.6	68.6	29.9	34.1	12.3	5.7	3.6	16.2	64.6
Iowa State	31	43.3	69.8	38.3	31.9	12.6	6.9	3.9	12.0	69.7
Kansas State	29	41.5	72.2	32.2	36.3	15.5	6.4	4.2	13.5	70.7
Nebraska	28	43.3	69.6	34.9	40.5	14.6	5.9	4.7	14.4	70.7
Texas Tech	32	42.3	68.1	35.5	39.7	12.4	6.0	3.6	15.3	71.6
Baylor	30	43.5	66.4	37.5	39.5	14.6	5.7	3.5	16.7	72.2
Missouri	36	44.7	66.9	36.4	34.9	14.5	7.2	3.1	14.3	72.5
Texas	34	43.8	65.4	36.6	34.9	13.7	6.5	3.8	14.4	73.2
Texas A&M	31	45.7	71.3	35.7	35.6	17.0	7.9	2.8	13.7	73.9
Kansas	37	40.2	68.6	36.1	35.5	14.4	8.6	4.4	16.8	74.7
Colorado	29	42.9	69.0	38.2	36.6	16.8	7.8	3.6	12.2	77.9

National Rank **1st**

1. Kansas

WHAT WE LIKE: Drew Gooden was more outspoken than Roy Williams might have preferred, but he backed his smack with stellar play throughout last season, and his teammates fed off it on their way to the league's first undefeated conference mark. Does Kansas have the nerve to keep it up with Gooden gone? We'll see. The Jayhawks clearly have the talent. The starting five should be as good as any in the nation. Forward Nick Collison delivered big numbers playing in tandem with Gooden. Now, Collison will play alongside Wayne Simien, whose offensive game isn't as polished, and newcomer Jeff Graves. It wouldn't be a surprise if Collison added 4 or 5 points to his 15.6 scoring average from last season. Kirk Hinrich emerged as an all-conference guard last year and now is being discussed as a top 10 NBA draft pick. He is a strong shooter and passer. A key to Hinrich's game will be the continued development of third guard Keith Langford, who came on strong during the NCAA Tournament. Langford answered questions about his shooting by hitting a game-winning 3-pointer at Nebraska. Point guard Aaron Miles handled the pressure of running the team as a freshman as well as could be expected. Shooting troubles prevented him from becoming a complete player, but his leadership qualities were evident.

Schedule

N19-29	Preseason NIT
D4	Central Missouri St.
D7	at Oregon
D11	at Tulsa
D14	Emporia State
D21	UCLA
D28	California*
J2	UNC Asheville
J4	at Mo.-Kansas City
J6	at Iowa State
J11	Nebraska
J15	Wyoming
J18	Kansas State
J22	at Colorado
J25	Arizona
J27	Texas
F1	at Nebraska
F3	Missouri
F8	at Kansas State
F11	at Baylor
F16	Iowa State
F19	Colorado
F23	at Oklahoma
F26	Texas A&M
M1	Oklahoma State
M3	at Texas Tech
M9	at Missouri

*at Oakland

WHAT SCARES US: Kansas led the nation in scoring (90.9 ppg) and field-goal shooting (50.6 percent) last season. A big reason for that was Gooden, and had he returned for his senior season, Kansas would be seemingly unstoppable. But he's gone, and although Collison runs the floor exceptionally well, Gooden's athleticism will be missed. We'll see if Simien and Graves can approach Gooden's speed. A lack of perimeter shooting also could give Kansas problems. Hinrich is terrific, but he benefited greatly from the presence of Jeff Boschee, who finished his career as the Big 12's all-time leading 3-point shooter. The Jayhawks do not have that second established perimeter shooting threat this season, although it's not unreasonable to expect more from Langford and Miles. This will be a team that gains experience on the fly. The returning starters—Collison, Hinrich and Miles—and Langford and Simien own all but a few of the team's returning minutes. Among the rest of the rotation, Graves is a newcomer, Jeff Hawkins redshirted last season and Michael Lee and Bryant Nash combined to average 7.2 minutes.

X FACTOR: Kansas went into last year with high expectations, which was nothing new for a Roy Williams team. But his previous teams with similar promise fell painfully short of the Final Four, sometimes when a key player wouldn't step up. Last season's team broke through, restoring faith in the Williams way. "When push came to shove in the big moments, we played our tails off," Williams says. "This team didn't shy back, they didn't retreat, they didn't get too cautious. They just went after it." Gooden, who stepped up his game and became Kansas' first consensus All-America in four years, was the embodiment of the effort. Collison and Hinrich have that ability, and Kansas needs their confidence as much as their talent. —*B.K.*

A BIG 12 COACH SAYS...

Kirk Hinrich is one of the most improved players I've ever seen. He is a very good shooter. He's a better athlete than you think. Wayne Simien changed his body drastically; he looks great. One of the surprises was Keith Langford. Ask Kansas—they can't believe how good he is. People might say something about their depth, but Coach Williams doesn't play a lot of kids. They might have to play some minutes with three bigs, maybe in a triangle-type motion.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Jayhawks Data

Coach: Roy Williams (388-93, 14 years; 29-13 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Steve Robinson (7 years), Joe Holladay (9), Ben Miller (3).
2001-2002 record: 33-4. Big 12: 16-0/1st. Lost to Maryland in NCAA semifinals.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 7.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.
Site: Lawrence, Kan.
Website: www.kuathletics.com
Home court: Allen Fieldhouse (16,300).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	**F**	**Nick Collison***	**6-9/250**	**Sr.**	**15.6**	**8.3**	**1.7**	**59.2**	**57.5**	**37.5**
42	F	Jeff Graves	6-9/255	Jr.	JC recruit needs to watch his weight.					
1	G	Jeff Hawkins	5-11/175	Fr.	Redshirt PG a good passer, ballhandler.					
10	**G**	**Kirk Hinrich***	**6-3/185**	**Sr.**	**14.8**	**4.8**	**5.0**	**54.1**	**80.8**	**47.8**
5	**G/F**	**Keith Langford**	**6-4/200**	**So.**	**7.9**	**3.3**	**1.5**	**49.3**	**69.9**	**26.8**
25	G	Michael Lee	6-3/210	So.	1.2	0.4	0.3	39.4	50.0	50.0
11	**G**	**Aaron Miles***	**6-1/175**	**So.**	**7.1**	**2.7**	**6.8**	**40.4**	**79.3**	**28.9**
15	F	Bryant Nash	6-6/205	Jr.	1.0	0.7	0.1	31.0	57.9	40.0
55	F	Moulaye Niang	6-9/205	Fr.	Senegal native will help on defense.					
23	**F**	**Wayne Simien**	**6-9/250**	**So.**	**8.1**	**5.3**	**0.3**	**55.3**	**73.8**	**—**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jeff Boschee*	6-1/185	13.4	2.6	2.4	46.9	78.7	46.4
F	Jeff Carey	6-10/250	1.9	1.6	0.1	57.4	68.0	—
F	Drew Gooden*	6-10/230	19.8	11.4	2.0	50.4	75.5	27.8

National rank 3

2. Oklahoma

WHAT WE LIKE: The Sooners have so many good players in the backcourt that coach Kelvin Samson is giving serious thought to redshirting Jason Detrick, a former junior college All-American who last season averaged 21 minutes and 9.2 points for the Sooners despite problems with tender ankles. But any discussion about Oklahoma starts and ends with probable All-American Hollis Price, a 6-1, 170-pound guard who is the heart and soul of the Sooners. Price led the team in scoring and steals, hit 84 3-point shots and 83.8 percent of his free throws. Surgery on his right ankle in early June put Price on the shelf for the summer, but he was out the previous summer after having elbow surgery, and it didn't keep him from being a first-team All-Big 12 selection and the MVP of the conference tournament and the NCAA West Regional. Joining Price in the three-guard set are Quannas White and Ebi Ere. White is a steady player who can score when called upon. Ere, last year's Big 12 newcomer of the year, is a streaky shooter who can score inside or out. It might not always be pretty with him, but it's pretty sweet.

Schedule

N14 Alabama*
N22-23 Sooner Invitational
N30 Prairie View
D7 Hartford
D14 Coppin State
D21 Georgia State
D28 Mississippi State**
D30 UNC Asheville
J4 Michigan State***
J7 Connecticut
J11 Colorado
J13 at Oklahoma State
J18 at Iowa State
J20 Texas Tech
J25 at Baylor
J28 Texas A&M
F1 at Kansas State
F8 Baylor
F10 at Texas
F15 at Texas Tech
F19 Oklahoma State
F23 Kansas
F26 at Missouri
M1 at Texas A&M
M5 Nebraska
M8 Texas
*at New York City
**at New Orleans
***at Oklahoma City

WHAT SCARES US: It's hard to tell what this team will get from its inside game. Returning post players provided 7.5 percent of the team's points last season. Over the long haul the Sooners may not need a strong low-post presence, but on days when the outside shots aren't falling, they'll need somebody who can produce points down low. Jabahri Brown is an athletic big man, but he barely weighs 210 pounds soaking wet. Sampson will try to convince Brown that he is invincible inside, but defenders more likely will convince him he can be easily tackled in the paint. Sophomore Johnnie Gilbert returns after redshirting last season because of hip and shoulder injuries. Gilbert is an aggressive rebounder and defender but is limited offensively. Senior Jozsef Szendrei barely had more points (42) than fouls (39) in his first full season last year. In all likelihood, Oklahoma will rely on freshman Kevin Bookout to come through down low. He has the body (6-8, 260) and resume (30 ppg, 16 rpg and a ridiculous 84.3 shooting percentage in high school) to get it done. A nationally ranked shot put and discus thrower, Bookout is extremely strong. A good season from Bookout would help ease the loss of do-everything Aaron McGhee.

X FACTOR: Sampson says incoming freshman DeAngelo Alexander is not necessarily great at anything but is very good at almost everything. Alexander, who's 18 and has a D-I body already, will be thrust into the mix from the start, and his development will be the key in determining whether Detrick will redshirt or not. The smart money says Alexander will get the job done, leaving Detrick to hand out Gatorade to thirsty teammates while waiting for next year. Alexander is strong enough to go down low and score, and because of the void in the middle, he likely will be called upon to do so. When Sampson goes to a bigger lineup, Alexander has the skills to bring the ball down the court. He should challenge for honors as league newcomer of the year. —*J.S.*

A BIG 12 COACH SAYS...

Kelvin Sampson can get his kids to play hard. They don't have to score a ton of points because they play such good defense. They dictate tempo with both offense and defense. About 80 percent of the time down, he knows who he wants to get a shot. I thought Ebi Ere got tired, but he's a hard matchup. Hollis Price is always positive, active. I think they're missing a good big player, but they've got such good guard and wing play.

Quannas White

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Sooners Data

Coach: Kelvin Sampson (187-74, 8 years; 290-177 overall, 15 years; 7-9 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Jim Shaw (3 years), Jimmy Tubbs (1st), Bennie Seltzer (5).
2001-2002 record: 31-5. Big 12: 13-3/2nd. Lost to Indiana in NCAA semifinals.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 36.
Last league title: 1989 (Big Eight).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Norman, Okla.
Website: www.soonersports.com
Home court: Lloyd Noble Center (12,000).

Roster — ***2001-2002 starter** — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
15	G	DeAngelo Alexander	6-4/215	Fr.	A consensus top 50 national recruit.					
40	**F**	**Kevin Bookout**	**6-8/260**	**Fr.**	**Second-team *Parade* All-American.**					
21	**C**	**Jabahri Brown***	**6-10/210**	**Jr.**	**4.8**	**5.7**	**0.9**	**50.4**	**50.0**	**—**
5	G	Jason Detrick	6-5/215	Sr.	9.2	3.5	1.2	39.9	82.0	27.2
2	**G**	**Ebi Ere***	**6-5/215**	**Sr.**	**14.6**	**5.8**	**1.6**	**42.7**	**80.2**	**32.9**
32	F	Johnnie Gilbert	6-8/230	So.	Made five starts last year before redshirting.					
24	F	Matt Gipson	6-9/225	Fr.	Redshirt brings good inside presence.					
12	G	Blake Johnston	6-1/185	So.	1.7	0.7	1.2	43.8	70.6	45.5
55	F	Michael Liggett	6-6/190	So.	0.2	0.2	0.0	20.0	—	—
10	**G**	**Hollis Price***	**6-1/170**	**Sr.**	**16.5**	**3.1**	**2.6**	**45.5**	**83.8**	**38.2**
42	C	Jozsef Szendrei	6-9/240	Sr.	1.4	2.4	0.1	48.5	45.5	—
44	C	Larry Turner	6-11/235	Fr.	Quick and athletic for a big man.					
4	**G**	**Quannas White***	**6-1/190**	**Sr.**	**7.6**	**2.7**	**4.7**	**44.2**	**68.4**	**40.8**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Aaron McGhee*	6-8/250	16.0	7.7	1.1	45.8	82.2	32.3
F	Daryan Selvy	6-6/215	6.7	4.9	1.1	45.8	72.0	32.1

National rank 6

3. Texas

WHAT WE LIKE: T.J. Ford set the pace for the Longhorns' offense with an NCAA-best 8.3 assists a game last season—and he'll be even better this season. Ford put in long hours during the offseason working on his outside shot, and it has paid off. While he may not be a feared gunner from long range, he should have a decent enough jumper to make defenses respect him this season. Ford has no shortage of players to feed in the Longhorns' uptempo attack. Small forward Brandon Mouton was Texas' top scorer last season and should be again, but his backup, Sydmill Harris, is the team's best shooter. The Longhorns have depth inside, starting with center James Thomas (6-8), one of the best rebounders in the conference. Sophomore Jason Klotz (6-9), the most improved player on the team last year, will back him up. Undersized power forward Deginald Erskin (6-6) and Brian Boddicker (6-8) will be pushed by freshmen Brad Buckman (6-9), a McDonald's All-American, and Chris Wright (6-9).

Schedule

N15 Georgia*
N23 Stephen F. Austin
N27 Texas-Arlington
N30 Seton Hall**
D7-8 BB&T Classic
D15 at Arizona
D19 McNeese State
D22 Princeton
D30 Louisiana Tech
J5 Mount St. Mary's
J11 Iowa State
J15 at Baylor
J18 Texas A&M
J25 Missouri
J27 at Kansas
F1 Oklahoma State
F4 at Colorado
F8 at Texas A&M
F10 Oklahoma
F15 at Nebraska
F17 Texas Tech
F22 at Oklahoma State
F26 Baylor
M1 at Texas Tech
M4 Kansas State
M8 at Oklahoma
*at New York City
**at Houston

WHAT SCARES US: While there are enough bodies to get it done inside, several questions need to be answered. Buckman is an all-around heady player, but will he adjust to the college game quickly enough to be a major contributor on a team with such high expectations? His feet aren't the quickest around. Wright is an excellent shooter, but he has had multiple knee injuries and had to be redshirted last year. Erskin more than held his own after taking over at power forward when Chris Owens suffered a season-ending knee injury, but at 6-6 he is at a great disadvantage against top teams. Boddicker, a junior, was a big disappointment last year, averaging just 7.1 points and shooting 38 percent from the floor. If he doesn't improve and become a consistent offensive force, Buckman will face even more pressure to deliver. And apparently there are questions about the outside shooting of every Rick Barnes Texas team. Ford's 15 percent shooting (5-for-33) from 3-point range set the tone; no player hit better than 40 percent from beyond the arc. Barnes was not pleased with his team's defensive play, and it was not because opponents averaged 73.2 points, compared with 65.0 the year before. Opponents hit almost 44 percent of their shots. In Barnes' three previous seasons, opponents managed to top 40 percent just once. Barnes vows that missed assignments, slow help on penetrators and an overall lack of pressure will be corrected this season.

X FACTOR: Junior guard Royal Ivey is capable of playing three positions and will have to. He was forced to play the point (his least natural position) as a freshman and may be needed to do so in long stretches this season because there is no proven backup for Ford. Senior Terrell Ross was a non-factor last season. Freshman Kenton Paulino could contribute, but it probably will take some time before he's ready. Ivey is the best choice to back up Ford, though the offense tends to stall under Ivey's direction. He also is the team's best on-the-ball defender. Often overlooked by defenses, he made them pay with his offensive game last year. Can he do it again? —*J.S.*

A BIG 12 COACH SAYS...

T.J. Ford is so smart and quick. He almost always makes the right decision. Everybody knows his weakness. We didn't guard him. But the kid worked his butt off on shooting. I don't think that's going to be the detriment it was. They have so many scorers. With Brad Buckman coming in, Brian Boddicker can go to the high post; he wants to be a 3. James Thomas—outside 8 feet can't drop it in the ocean, but he never goes outside 8 feet.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Longhorns Data

Coach: Rick Barnes (90-43, 4 years; 292-177 overall, 15 years; 5-10 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Frank Haith (1 year), Russell Springmann (1), Rodney Terry (1st).
2000-2001 record: 22-12. Big 12: 10-6/T3rd. Lost to Oregon in NCAA Midwest semifinals.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Austin, Texas.
Website: www.texassports.com
Home court: Frank Erwin Center (16,496).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
33	F	Brian Boddicker	6-8/228	Jr.	7.1	3.9	0.7	38.2	64.9	35.4
22	**F**	**Brad Buckman**	**6-9/235**	**Fr.**	**Local product should start right away.**					
15	F	Deginald Erskin	6-6/218	Sr.	7.7	3.2	0.4	57.2	64.2	—
11	**G**	**T.J. Ford***	**5-10/165**	**So.**	**10.8**	**3.8**	**8.3**	**41.3**	**77.5**	**15.2**
32	G	Drew Gressett	6-0/175	Jr.	0.4	0.0	0.2	100.0	0.0	—
13	G	Sydmill Harris	6-4/192	So.	5.9	1.2	0.4	43.4	75.0	39.5
24	**G**	**Royal Ivey***	**6-3/192**	**Jr.**	**10.9**	**3.5**	**1.4**	**47.5**	**78.0**	**37.7**
21	C	Jason Klotz	6-9/235	So.	3.5	3.2	0.1	46.2	54.8	—
3	**G**	**Brandon Mouton***	**6-4/210**	**Jr.**	**13.7**	**4.6**	**1.3**	**41.2**	**75.6**	**39.4**
45	F	Chris Ogden	6-6/220	Sr.	1.8	0.6	0.4	38.9	57.1	38.9
12	G	Kenton Paulino	6-2/165	Fr.	Los Angeles co-player of year as a senior.					
23	G	Terrell Ross	6-3/190	Sr.	0.4	0.8	0.4	29.4	16.7	33.3
0	**C**	**James Thomas***	**6-8/220**	**Jr.**	**10.7**	**8.9**	**0.4**	**54.5**	**63.3**	**—**
44	F	Chris Wright	6-9/220	Fr.	Redshirt gives team more height.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Chris Owens*	6-8/245	15.8	7.4	0.8	50.0	62.7	30.0
G	Freddie Williams	5-11/178	4.9	2.0	2.2	41.3	69.5	39.3

National Rank 18

4. Missouri

WHAT WE LIKE: Three games last season changed the perception of Missouri basketball. Historical underachivers in postseason play, the Tigers accepted their No. 12 seed to the 2002 NCAA Tournament and proceeded to plow through Miami (Fla.), Ohio State and UCLA to reach the Elite Eight for only the third time in school history. The run did wonders for Missouri's outlook on this season. "I think our players have raised the bar on themselves," coach Quin Snyder says. "And that gives me a chance to raise it higher so that my standards are their standards." For the past two seasons, Missouri's fortunes rode with Kareem Rush and Clarence Gilbert. Both are gone, so this is Rickey Paulding's team now. Paulding, who led the Tigers in the NCAA Tournament with 18.3 points per game, possesses remarkable athletic ability and can take over a game. In four tournament games, he shot 56 percent from the floor, including 53 percent from behind the arc. Those figures prove Paulding, a slasher and dunk artist, can emerge as one of the Big 12's best all-around players. Center Arthur Johnson picked up his game as a sophomore and became a force in the middle. Johnson's sidekick up front is Travon Bryant, who started slowly in his first full season of college ball. But Bryant became more confident in his offense and more assertive as a rebounder, especially late in the season.

Schedule

N22	American
N30	Austin Peay
D2	Sacramento State
D7	USC*
D9	Wis.-Green Bay
D14	Memphis
D21	Illinois**
D30	Valparaiso
J4	at Iowa
J7	Centenary
J11	Baylor
J13	at Syracuse
J18	at Oklahoma State
J21	Iowa State
J25	at Texas
J29	at Nebraska
F1	Colorado
F3	at Kansas
F9	Texas Tech
F12	at Texas A&M
F15	Kansas State
F18	Nebraska
F22	at Colorado
F26	Oklahoma
M1	at Kansas State
M5	at Iowa State
M9	Kansas

*at Anaheim, Calif.
**at St. Louis

WHAT SCARES US: The roster is only 10 players deep, so if somebody twists an ankle in practice Snyder might have to throw on a pair of shorts. The Tigers lost Justin Gage, the all-Big 12 wide receiver who averaged 17 minutes a game for two-thirds of last season. He's a top NFL prospect who will be preparing for the 2003 draft. And no Big 12 team must replace a larger scoring load. Rush was the league's second-leading scorer at 19.8 points and Gilbert was sixth at 17.0. Also gone is point guard Wesley Stokes, who transferred to San Diego State after the Tigers signed junior college transfer Ricky Clemons. The new backcourt will consist of Clemons and freshman shooting guard Jimmy McKinney. McKinney was the star on three straight Missouri high school state title teams, and the Tigers need his offensive contributions. Last year's role players also will have to assume more important duties. Najeeb Echols probably will play both forward slots again. Guard Josh Kroenke's perimeter shooting will be more of a necessity than a luxury, and it's time for forward Jeffrey Ferguson to deliver on the upside his coaches advertise.

X FACTOR: There is plenty of optimism despite the loss of Rush, a first-round NBA draft pick, and Gilbert, the school's all-time leading 3-point shooter. The Tigers are looking for Paulding to become their go-to guy, for Johnson and Bryant to play stronger, for role players to contribute more and for the newcomers, including freshman forward Kevin Young, to be factors immediately. Snyder must blend all this together—and then approach last year's postseason success. Hey, that's how it works. You raise the bar, as Missouri did last season, and shoot for that standard. Anything less will be a disappointment. —*B.K.*

A BIG 12 COACH SAYS...

They did one thing that really helped, and that was get rid of Wesley Stokes. Rickey Paulding really came on. He was one of the most improved players in the league. But they lost Kareem Rush and Clarence Gilbert, and that was a big part of their team. I thought Arthur Johnson looked great this summer. But they need good guards. I'll tell you, when Ricky Clemons is on, he's really good. And when he's off, he can kill your team.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Tigers Data

Coach: Quin Snyder (62-38, 3 years; 4-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Tony Harvey (3 years), Lane Odom (2), Marcus Perez (2).
2001-2002 record: 24-12. Big 12: 9-7/6th. Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA West finals.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 9.
Last league title: 1994 (Big Eight).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Columbia, Mo.
Website: www.mutigers.com
Home court: Hearnes Center (13,545).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
5	**F**	**Travon Bryant***	**6-9/245**	**Jr.**	**6.3**	**5.4**	**0.6**	**57.6**	**51.0**	**46.2**
0	**G**	**Ricky Clemons**	**5-11/168**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer likely will be a starter.**					
33	G/F	Najeeb Echols	6-7/234	So.	2.5	2.6	0.7	46.2	60.6	33.3
32	F/C	Jeffrey Ferguson	6-10/240	So.	1.7	1.8	0.2	46.5	64.7	—
50	**C**	**Arthur Johnson***	**6-9/265**	**Jr.**	**12.2**	**7.9**	**1.2**	**55.1**	**55.3**	**—**
10	G	Ryan Kiernan	6-0/188	Sr.	0.9	0.4	0.1	66.7	100.0	66.7
15	G	Josh Kroenke	6-4/194	Jr.	1.4	1.0	0.7	34.9	57.1	34.4
1	**G**	**Jimmy McKinney**	**6-3/190**	**Fr.**	**Top 50 recruit can score, play some PG.**					
23	**F**	**Rickey Paulding***	**6-5/209**	**Jr.**	**11.9**	**3.9**	**1.5**	**51.0**	**73.0**	**44.2**
14	F/C	Kevin Young	6-9/290	Fr.	Should help the team's inside game.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Justin Gage	6-4/210	Focusing on football.					
G	Clarence Gilbert*	6-2/195	17.0	3.4	3.2	39.0	79.5	38.3
G/F	Kareem Rush*	6-6/212	19.8	5.2	2.5	42.6	76.9	40.5
G	Wesley Stokes	5-10/173	Transferred to San Diego State.					

5. Texas Tech

National Rank 27

WHAT WE LIKE: Basketball fans should love Bob Knight's system. In the latest example of how good a coach he is, he took a team that didn't have enough talent to win and had even less desire to play hard and turned it into an NCAA Tournament team. The lack of talent was obvious in a home loss to Sam Houston State and losses by 25, 26 and 27 points at Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, respectively. Simply put, the Raiders had to be near perfect to stay with the big boys. But Knight had his squad playing at a high level much of the time. Expect more of the same.

WHAT SCARES US: Last season, Knight said forward Andre Emmett could be the best college player he has coached. Knight, of course, included the disclaimer that Emmett has a lot of work to do to get to that point. It starts with defense. Emmett was one of the top scorers in the conference but did little defensively even though he was second on the team in rebounds and tied for the lead in steals. He played passing lanes well, which led to a host of thefts and ensuing layups, but his on-the-ball defense was weak, and he was caught out of position at times. Emmett and Knight had a somewhat antagonistic relationship. The question: Will Emmett continue to accept the trade of day-to-day biting criticism for an occasional pat on the back as he improves?

X FACTOR: Forward Pawel Storozynski showed some skills in his 20 minutes a game, but he also showed a seeming unwillingness to play within himself and within the system. The senior from Poland fits the stereotype of European players with his swashbuckling offensive attack and mild defensive presence. That won't work under Knight. After a year under Knight, Storozynski could surprise and show big improvement from last season, when he averaged just 6.3 points and led the team in turnovers. —*J.S.*

Red Raiders Data

Coach: Bob Knight (23-9, 1 year; 787-298 overall, 36 years; 42-22 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA titles in 1976, '81 and '87).
Assistant coaches: Chris Beard (1 year), Bob Beyer (1 year), Pat Knight (1).
2001-2002 record: 23-9. Big 12: 10-6/T3rd. Lost to Southern Illinois in NCAA East first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 100.
Last league title: 1986 (tie, SWC).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Lubbock, Texas.
Website: www.texastech.com
Home court: United Spirit Arena (15,098).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
10	**G**	**Will Chavis***	**5-10/190**	**Sr.**	**7.7**	**2.8**	**3.5**	**44.3**	**77.0**	**40.9**
12	G	Nathan Doudney	6-4/204	So.	4.9	1.7	1.2	37.1	42.9	38.5
14	**G**	**Andre Emmett***	**6-5/229**	**Jr.**	**18.7**	**6.6**	**1.5**	**51.9**	**67.5**	**32.1**
23	G	Mikey Marshall	6-4/228	Jr.	2.0	2.7	1.6	37.9	62.5	0.0
45	C	Mickey Michalec	6-10/255	So.	1.6	1.6	0.1	44.4	50.0	—
3	G	Ryan Murphy	6-3/183	Fr.	A second-team all-state selection in Texas.					
35	F	John Ofoegbu	6-8/219	Fr.	Big man still needs to develop.					
31	F	Tanner Ogden	6-6/195	Fr.	Walk-on is a good shooter.					
22	**F**	**Kasib Powell***	**6-7/218**	**Sr.**	**15.1**	**6.2**	**3.8**	**48.7**	**66.2**	**25.0**
24	G	Ronald Ross	6-2/195	So.	3.1	1.1	1.0	48.7	65.4	0.0
11	**F**	**Pawel Storozynski***	**6-8/249**	**Sr.**	**6.3**	**4.0**	**2.1**	**37.9**	**59.5**	**33.3**
55	F	Robert Tomaszek	6-9/240	Jr.	Transferred from Eastern Wyoming College.					
32	**G**	**Nick Valdez**	**6-6/204**	**Sr.**	**4.2**	**3.4**	**2.5**	**42.9**	**66.0**	**42.3**
40	G	Josh Washington	6-3/196	Fr.	Following his dad, who also played at Tech.					
33	G	LucQuente White	6-1/178	Fr.	Local propsect is a non-scholarship player.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Andy Ellis*	6-11/225	16.5	7.0	1.1	50.8	74.0	51.1
G	Marcus Shropshire	6-0/200	Transferred to Texas Christian.					

Schedule

N22	UNC Wilmington	D18	New Mexico	J20	at Oklahoma	F15	Oklahoma
N26	SMU	D21	New Mexico State	J26	Oklahoma State	F17	at Texas
N30	at UTEP	D28	at Minnesota	J29	Colorado	F22	Texas A&M
D3	at TCU	J1	Houston	F1	at Texas A&M	F24	at Oklahoma State
D7	Nicholls State	J6	at San Diego State	F5	Nebraska	M1	Texas
D14	at Wyoming	J11	at Kansas State	F9	at Missouri	M3	Kansas
		J18	Baylor	F12	at Iowa State	M8	at Baylor

6. Oklahoma State

National rank 64

WHAT WE LIKE: Two words: Ivan McFarlin. He was a partial qualifier, so he had to sit out in 2000-01, but he wasted little time getting into the mix last season and averaged 10.8 points and 7.7 rebounds. Though he was relentless on defense, McFarlin's offensive skills were somewhat lacking in his first season. The power forward should be better on that end of the floor. In some ways McFarlin resembles Andre Williams, who fared much better on the defensive end during a strong freshman season. But McFarlin has better feet and hands and should become an offensive force.

WHAT SCARES US: The hole in the middle. Fredrik Jonzen didn't necessarily evoke fear in the hearts of opponents, but he did draw some attention. Without him, the Cowboys have McFarlin (6-7) and Williams (6-8) patrolling the paint, and neither is a low-post threat on every possession. Jason Miller, a transfer from North Texas, likely will start, with Williams coming off the bench. The coaches hope Miller, who has a soft outside touch, is an instant double-figure scorer. He had better be. With little depth and not much height other than 7-2 project Frans Steyn, the Cowboys could have difficulty against power teams.

X FACTOR: JC transfers Tony Allen and Janavor Weatherspoon are expected to produce immediately. Allen, a shooting guard, is a good rebounder and a relentless defender who will bring a lot of intensity to the floor. Weatherspoon, who originally signed with Old Dominion, will be asked to help ease the team's shooting woes. Last year the Cowboys had trouble scoring against good teams in the halfcourt. Point guard Victor Williams is more of a scorer than a distributor, and his scoring was badly needed the last two seasons. If Allen and Weatherspoon come through, Victor Williams can concentrate on running the offense. —*J.S.*

Cowboys Data

Coach: Eddie Sutton (272-114, 12 years; 702-278 overall, 32 years; 32-23 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Sean Sutton (9 years), Kyle Keller (3), Glynn Cyprien (2).
2001-2002 record: 23-9. Big 12: 10-6/T3rd. Lost to Kent State in NCAA South first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 17.
Last league title: 1991 (tie, Big Eight).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Stillwater, Okla.
Website: www.okstate.com
Home court: Gallagher-Iba Arena (13,611).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Tony Allen	6-4/205	Jr.	JC transfer brings toughness, defense.					
2	G/F	Terrence Crawford	6-6/234	Jr.	2.9	2.3	0.7	44.6	40.9	27.8
30	**G**	**Cheyne Gadson**	**6-3/207**	**Sr.**	**6.5**	**2.9**	**2.5**	**42.1**	**61.4**	**36.1**
	F	Onye Ibekwe	6-7/230	Fr.	Brings intensity and athleticism to team.					
23	**F**	**Ivan McFarlin***	**6-7/221**	**Jr.**	**10.8**	**7.7**	**0.6**	**61.4**	**64.7**	**0.0**
33	**F**	**Jason Miller**	**6-8/240**	**Jr.**	**Was second-leading scorer for North Texas.**					
	G	Julian Richardson	6-0/200	Fr.	Can play both guard positions.					
34	**G/F**	**Melvin Sanders***	**6-5/198**	**Sr.**	**8.7**	**3.9**	**1.3**	**42.2**	**62.5**	**35.6**
4	C	Frans Steyn	7-2/292	So.	South Africa native is a rugby star.					
	G	J. Weatherspoon	6-1/180	Jr.	JC transfer two-time all-state in Delaware.					
40	F	Andre Williams	6-8/216	Sr.	3.8	4.4	0.4	50.5	36.6	0.0
5	**G**	**Victor Williams***	**5-10/192**	**Sr.**	**13.1**	**2.3**	**4.0**	**39.3**	**75.0**	**31.2**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Maurice Baker*	6-1/175	12.9	5.4	3.3	42.6	84.4	36.8
F/C	Antoine Broxsie	6-10/235	1.0	1.3	0.3	52.9	46.4	—
G	Aaron Hill	6-4/180	Transferred.					
F/C	Fredrik Jonzen*	6-10/230	12.3	6.9	1.6	47.2	69.6	35.7

Schedule

N22	Yale	D21	at Wichita State	J21	at Baylor	F15	Baylor
N27-30	Alaska S.O.	D30	Arkansas	J26	at Texas Tech	F19	at Oklahoma
D5	Hartford	J4	BYU	J29	Iowa State	F22	Texas
D8	Northwestern St.	J8	Texas A&M-C.C.	F1	at Texas	F24	Texas Tech
D15	Fresno State	J11	at Texas A&M	F5	Kansas State	M1	at Kansas
D18	UMKC	J13	Oklahoma	F8	at Cincinnati	M5	at Colorado
		J18	Missouri	F12	at Nebraska	M8	Texas A&M

7. Baylor

National Rank 69

WHAT WE LIKE: Start with Lawrence Roberts. He was a consensus Big 12 all-freshman pick and was on several freshman All-American teams last season. He led the Bears in scoring (16.6 ppg), rebounding (8.2) and blocked shots (39). Roberts proved to be a better inside scorer than expected, particularly considering he had no inside help. A superb baseline scorer, he more than survived the post battles in rugged league play. In a conference that has many quality forwards, Roberts is among the best. John Lucas started 27 games at point guard as a freshman and had an excellent season. Though he struggled at times, especially defensively, Lucas averaged 13.2 points in a team-high 33.5 minutes per game.

WHAT SCARES US: Coach Dave Bliss' greatest challenge is to blend three newcomers into the rotation without bruising egos, particularly Lucas'. Robert Hart could win the point guard job. He is not as good a shooter as Lucas, but Bliss believes Hart is a good floor leader and a better defender. That could leave Lucas bouncing between the two guard spots. At shooting guard, Ellis Kidd likely will replace Wendell Greenleaf, who was dismissed following two arrests on assault charges. Kidd, a junior college transfer, originally signed with Oklahoma State but never played there. He can hit the 3 and should contribute immediately on offense.

X FACTOR: Terrance Thomas, a junior college All-American who takes over at small forward, will be the key to the Bears' success. Baylor did not have a slasher on the roster last season, and it hurt. Teams collapsed on Roberts inside and dared the Bears to win games from the perimeter. With no player capable of breaking down a defender off the dribble, the Bears' offense was stagnant at times. Thomas should change that immediately. If he doesn't, life in the Big 12 again will be difficult. —*J.S.*

Bears Data

Coach: Dave Bliss (47-43, 3 years; 512-314 overall, 27 years; 8-11 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Doug Ash (3 years), Rodney Belcher (1st), Brian O'Neill (3).
2001-2002 record: 14-16.
Big 12: 4-12/T10th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 74.
Last league title: 1950 (tie, SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Waco, Texas.
Website: www.gobaylorbears.com
Home court: Ferrell Center (10,284).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Will Allen	6-2/180	Fr.	Comes to team from Addison, Texas.					
	F	Carlton Dotson	6-7/220	Jr.	JC transfer likely will be a backup PF.					
34	**C**	**R.T. Guinn***	**6-10/260**	**Jr.**	**7.3**	**4.3**	**1.0**	**48.5**	**63.2**	**46.2**
	G	Robert Hart	5-10/185	Jr.	JC transfer will compete for PG job.					
	G	**Ellis Kidd Jr.**	**6-4/185**	**So.**	**Oklahoma St. transfer should start at SG.**					
15	**G**	**John Lucas***	**5-10/150**	**So.**	**13.2**	**2.5**	**4.0**	**43.3**	**79.4**	**37.3**
55	C	Steve Othoro	6-11/255	Sr.	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.0	57.1	—
44	**F**	**Lawrence Roberts***	**6-8/255**	**So.**	**16.6**	**8.2**	**1.3**	**44.5**	**67.8**	**32.9**
13	G	Matt Sayman	6-4/195	Jr.	5.7	2.5	2.4	43.1	76.9	35.0
10	F	Tommy Swanson	6-9/200	Fr.	Only true freshman in this recruiting class.					
3	G	Kenny Taylor	6-3/185	So.	3.9	0.7	0.2	45.0	75.0	39.1
	F	**Terrance Thomas**	**6-7/220**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer expected to start at SF.**					
12	G	Andre White	6-0/180	Sr.	0.2	0.3	0.3	14.3	—	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Greg Davis*	6-9/230	7.1	5.9	2.1	56.0	73.8	50.0
G/F	Chad Eisley	6-6/210	5.3	2.7	1.5	38.4	65.0	26.7
G	Wendell Greenleaf*	6-2/195	Dismissed from team in August.					
G	Kevin Henry	6-2/200	2.8	0.4	0.4	38.2	62.5	32.7
F	Logan Kosmalski	6-8/235	4.4	3.1	0.8	40.5	61.3	35.9

^Expected to be eligible after the fall semester.

Schedule

N23 Alcorn State*
N27 Northwestern St.
N30 Houston**
D4 Southwest Texas
D7 TCU
D11 La.-Monroe
D14 Montana State
D21 at SMU
D30 North Texas
J4 Texas-Pan Am
J7 Mount St. Mary's
J11 at Missouri
J15 Texas
J18 at Texas Tech
J21 Oklahoma State
J25 Oklahoma
F1 at Iowa State
F4 Texas A&M
F8 at Oklahoma
F11 Kansas
F15 at Oklahoma St.
F19 at Kansas State
F22 Nebraska
F26 at Texas
M1 Colorado
M5 at Texas A&M
M8 Texas Tech
*at Dallas
**at Reliant St., Houston

8. Colorado

National Rank 73

WHAT WE LIKE: After making the postseason in three of coach Ricardo Patton's first four full seasons, the Buffs have missed two straight years. But that hasn't prevented other schools from inquiring about Patton's services. He appeared ready to take the job at Middle Tennessee after last season before a last-minute change of heart. He stayed with a Colorado team that has three returning starters, two who will contend for postseason honors. Forward Stephane Pelle is one of the Big 12's underrated players. He made no one's all-conference team last season despite averaging double figures in scoring and rebounding. David Harrison led the Buffs in scoring (13.9 ppg) and set a CU season record for field-goal percentage (63.8) as a freshman and could become one of the college game's top true centers. The team's top 3-point shooters, Blair Wilson and Michel Morandais, are back.

WHAT SCARES US: Patton may be a commodity on the job market, but his last two teams underachieved. Team chemistry has been a problem with the Buffs, who started well the past two seasons but struggled in Big 12 play. Colorado will place a big burden on Harrison, the most heralded player in the program since Chauncey Billups. The long college season took its toll on Harrison, who looked winded late in games last season. Harrison must get better at the free-throw line (56.1 percent). The Buffs are thrilled with their recruiting class, but it's always dicey to rely on newcomers. The best of the bunch is 6-7 forward Lamar Harris, an aggressive rebounder who averaged 12.4 points and 8.4 rebounds in junior college.

X FACTOR: The best Colorado teams under Patton had a star player—Billups five years ago and Jacquay Walls, who led the Buffs to NIT appearances in 1999 and 2000. Harrison might be that player this season. —*B.K.*

Buffaloes Data

Coach: Ricardo Patton (105-91, 7 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Terry Dunn (7 years), Larry Gay (3), Jason Shelton (2).
2001-2002 record: 15-14.
Big 12: 5-11/9th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 66.
Last league title: 1969 (Big Eight).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Boulder, Colo.
Website: www.cubuffs.com
Home court: Coors Events Center (11,064).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Chris Copeland	6-9/220	Fr.	Big man has a good outside game as well.					
3	F	A. Doumbouya	6-9/220	Jr.	1.3	1.3	0.1	57.1	47.6	—
	F	Glean Eddy	6-7/200	Fr.	Good perimeter shooter, finisher.					
23	G	Matt Greenwald	6-11/170	Sr.	0.7	0.7	0.4	25.0	75.0	0.0
	F	Lamar Harris	6-7/205	Jr.	Followed Mookie Wright from Compton C.C.					
13	**C**	**David Harrison***	**7-0/240**	**So.**	**13.9**	**7.0**	**0.4**	**63.8**	**56.1**	**—**
24	G	Trennis Jones	6-2/185	Jr.	0.6	1.4	0.3	18.2	—	33.3
	G	Antoine McGee	6-0/180	Fr.	Will compete for starting PG spot.					
30	**G/F**	**Michel Morandais**	**6-6/195**	**Jr.**	**10.9**	**4.5**	**2.8**	**48.5**	**63.5**	**39.0**
	G	Jayson Obazuaye	6-4/190	Fr.	Four-time first-team all-league in San Jose.					
34	**F**	**Stephane Pelle***	**6-9/240**	**Sr.**	**12.8**	**10.8**	**1.4**	**48.1**	**76.9**	**0.0**
43	**G/F**	**Blair Wilson**	**6-7/230**	**Jr.**	**12.3**	**3.4**	**1.7**	**45.1**	**80.9**	**42.9**
11	**G**	**Mookie Wright***	**6-2/170**	**Sr.**	**8.2**	**1.9**	**4.9**	**36.6**	**76.9**	**31.9**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Chevis Brimmer	5-11/170	7.4	2.6	3.1	39.6	55.6	33.3
G/F	D.J. Harrison*	6-7/215	10.7	5.7	1.8	41.6	81.9	35.1
G	Nick Mohr*	6-5/190	6.1	2.4	3.0	34.5	71.4	29.0

Schedule

N22 Cal Poly
N24 Stetson
N27 at New Mexico St.
D3 Georgia
D7 at Mo.-Kansas City
D11 Chicago State
D21 at Rice
D23 North Texas
D27 La.-Lafayette*
D28 at Charlotte
D29 Loyola (Ill.)*
J7 Colorado State
J11 at Oklahoma
J15 Kansas State
J18 at Nebraska
J22 Kansas
J29 at Texas Tech
F1 at Missouri
F4 Texas
F8 Iowa State
F11 at Kansas State
F15 Texas A&M
F19 at Kansas
F22 Missouri
F25 at Iowa State
M1 at Baylor
M5 Oklahoma State
M8 Nebraska
*at Charlotte

9. Iowa State

National Rank 83

WHAT WE LIKE: Immediate-impact newcomers arrive to a team that was hurting for bodies last year. Junior college transfers Tim Barnes, a point guard, and Jerome Harper, a swingman, could start. When Harper takes the court, he will become only the second McDonald's All-American to play for the Cyclones. JC center Chris Alexander, JC forward Jackson Vroman and freshman swingman Adam Haluska round out one of the nation's top recruiting classes. Shooting guard Jake Sullivan, perhaps the nation's best 3-point shooter, is the top returning player. Look for Sullivan to also see time at the point to help get the team's talented newcomers on the wing more time.

WHAT SCARES US: Iowa State went from back-to-back Big 12 titles to being the 11th seed in last year's league tournament. The emotional damage to the coaches and players was evident, but the beauty of this year's team is that many of the expected contributors had nothing to do with last season's 12-19 record. They're starting fresh. Iowa State suffered most on defense last season. The Cyclones went from playing one of the Big 12's most physical defensive styles to one of the loosest. Iowa State needs to be quicker on the perimeter. The newcomers will help, but the program received a blow when Shane Power transferred and Omar Bynum got suspended after being charged with drug possession.

X FACTOR: Larry Eustachy. All things considered, the coach handled last season well. There were no major blowups or scenes from Mr. Intensity. It was a strange feeling for Eustachy, whose previous worst year in 12 seasons as a coach was a 15-15 mark in his first year in Ames. Eustachy understood his team's limitations. Hopes are higher for this team, which isn't ready to battle for the league's top spots but should be improved. —*B.K.*

Cyclones Data

Coach: Larry Eustachy (84-45, 4 years; 243-131 overall, 12 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Randy Brown (3 years), Steve Barnes (1st), Wayne Morgan (1st).
2001-2002 record: 12-19.

Big 12: 4-12/T10th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 46.
Last league title: 2001.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Ames, Iowa.
Website: www.cyclones.com
Home court: Hilton Coliseum (14,092).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
21	**C**	**Chris Alexander**	**7-1/235**	**Jr.**	**One of top JC centers last season.**					
12	**G**	**Tim Barnes**	**6-1/165**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer will get plenty of time at PG.**					
1	F	^Omar Bynum*	6-7/210	Sr.	7.2	6.7	1.1	50.9	54.7	18.2
2	G	Adam Haluska	6-5/205	Fr.	Leading scorer in Iowa 3A/4A prep history.					
	G/F	**Jerome Harper**	**6-5/205**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer can play four positions.**					
51	C	Jared Homan	6-9/230	So.	3.6	3.4	0.3	48.6	69.5	—
50	G	Marcus Jefferson*	6-5/205	Jr.	7.3	4.1	1.4	47.9	73.2	43.3
11	G	Ricky Morgan	5-11/185	So.	2.6	1.9	3.1	33.3	68.4	17.4
15	F	Adam Schaper	6-9/215	So.	1.7	1.2	0.0	46.2	55.6	—
54	C	Andrew Skoglund	7-1/250	Jr.	0.5	0.9	0.0	8.3	100.0	—
0	**G**	**Jake Sullivan***	**6-1/195**	**Jr.**	**16.0**	**2.2**	**2.3**	**44.7**	**90.0**	**47.2**
4	**F**	**Jackson Vroman**	**6-10/230**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer can score inside, run the floor.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Tyray Pearson*	6-7/210	18.7	7.8	0.7	49.9	74.3	0.0
G	Shane Power*	6-5/210	Transferred to Mississippi State.					

^Suspended indefinitely in July.

Schedule

N25	Coe College	D15	Savannah State	J21	at Missouri	F19	at Texas A&M
N29	Mercer	D22	Drake	J25	Nebraska	F22	Kansas State
D2	Jackson State	D29	at Northern Iowa	J29	at Oklahoma St.	F25	Colorado
D6-7	Cyclone Chal.	D31	Ark.-Pine Bluff	F1	Baylor	M1	at Nebraska
D10	Boston College	J6	Kansas	F8	at Colorado	M5	Missouri
D13	at Iowa	J11	at Texas	F12	Texas Tech	M8	at Kansas State
		J18	Oklahoma	F16	at Kansas		

10. Nebraska

National Rank 105

WHAT WE LIKE: Nebraska fans scratched their heads during coach Barry Collier's first season two years ago. With players such as Cookie Belcher and Kimani Ffriend, the Huskers' struggled and finished under .500. The team and its coach never got used to each other. Last season was different. With less talent but players who supported their coach, Nebraska turned in a similar record and had a much better feeling about the season. Collier is a no-nonsense, fundamentals-first coach. And now, so are most of his recruits. Collier might have gotten more out of his talent than any Big 12 coach a year ago. To help his team take the next step, Collier has brought in guard Nate Johnson, a scorer from Penn Valley (Mo.) Community College, and forward Wes Wilkinson, a polished 6-9 freshman from Grand Island (Neb.) High.

WHAT SCARES US: Nebraskans are sensitive to comments about the quality of the high school basketball played in their state, so we'll just say there are some solid players but not enough to stock a Division I program. Three of Collier's four newcomers played prep hoops in Nebraska. Only time will tell if they will be good enough to compete on the highest level of the Big 12. The Huskers also must try to replace guard Cary Cochran, their top player from a year ago, and guard John Robinson, one of the best 3-point shooters in the league.

X FACTOR: Johnson has the ability to become an all-Big 12 player in his first season. He averaged 27 points at Penn Valley and set the Division II junior college national tournament scoring record with 48 points in a semifinal game. Johnson won't get the same freedom to operate at Nebraska as he did in junior college, but he'll get plenty of shots. —*B.K.*

Cornhuskers Data

Coach: Barry Collier (27-31, 2 years; 223-163 overall, 13 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Reggie Rankin (2 years), Mike Broughton (1st), Doug Novsek (1st).
2001-2002 record: 13-15.

Big 12: 6-10/T7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 154.
Last league title: 1950 (Big Eight).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Lincoln, Neb.
Website: www.huskers.com
Home court: Bob Devaney Sports Center (13,500).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
25	G	Adam Bohac	6-1/180	Jr.	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	—	0.0
32	**G**	**Brennon Clemmons**	**6-2/185**	**Sr.**	**8.8**	**5.0**	**2.7**	**36.5**	**68.9**	**34.4**
20	**F**	**Brian Conklin***	**6-11/230**	**Jr.**	**9.1**	**3.5**	**0.9**	**39.9**	**85.2**	**43.3**
1	G	Jason Dounsseau	6-5/185	Fr.	A two-time all-state selection in Nebraska.					
24	F/C	Roy Enright	6-9/255	Fr.	Dounsseau's high school teammate.					
40	C	Dan Heimos	6-11/230	So.	1.2	0.8	0.1	39.4	—	—
4	G	Nate Johnson	6-1/180	Jr.	JC Division II national player of the year.					
33	F	Marques McCarty	6-5/195	So.	0.7	0.3	0.0	33.3	37.5	0.0
12	**G**	**Jake Muhleisen***	**6-4/190**	**So.**	**11.7**	**3.5**	**3.8**	**41.2**	**70.8**	**28.2**
21	G	Corey Simms	6-5/205	So.	3.6	2.3	0.4	36.7	61.5	40.0
0	F	Wilson Thomas	6-6/215	Sr.	4.6	3.8	0.3	42.4	57.1	—
44	**F/C**	**John Turek***	**6-9/230**	**So.**	**5.4**	**6.2**	**0.7**	**39.1**	**38.0**	**—**
11	**F**	**Wes Wilkinson**	**6-9/210**	**Fr.**	**Was named Mr. Basketball in Nebraska.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Ross Buckendahl*	6-5/220	1.9	2.6	0.6	41.7	66.7	18.2
G	Cary Cochran*	6-1/185	14.0	3.3	2.2	41.9	92.2	43.0
G	Kedrick Ford	6-2/185	1.9	1.8	0.3	42.3	75.0	0.0
G	John Robinson*	6-1/195	10.6	3.0	2.6	36.2	69.4	31.3

Schedule

N21-24	Top of World Cl.	D27-28	azcentral.com Cl.	J22	at Kansas State	F18	at Missouri
D1	UT-San Antonio	D31	E. Washington	J25	at Iowa State	F22	at Baylor
D5	at South Florida	J4	Denver	J29	Missouri	F25	Kansas State
D8	Minnesota	J7	Lipscomb	F1	Kansas	M1	Iowa State
D14	IUPU-Ft. Wayne	J11	at Kansas	F5	at Texas Tech	M5	at Oklahoma
D21	Creighton	J15	Texas A&M	F12	Oklahoma State	M8	at Colorado
		J18	Colorado	F15	Texas		

11. Kansas State

National Rank 126

WHAT WE LIKE: Jim Wooldridge's Wildcats are tough to figure. For most of his first two seasons, the team struggled in the triangle offense and couldn't compete with the upper-echelon teams. But on some nights, it all came together. Two years ago, Kansas State walloped nationally ranked Iowa and Missouri. Last season, ninth-ranked Oklahoma State came to Manhattan and got drilled. You'd think with a little more patience and a few more players, K-State could shake out of the doldrums. The Wildcats lost their leading scorer in point guard Larry Reid, but most other key players return. Forward Pervis Pasco ranked in the top four in the league in rebounding, field-goal shooting and blocked shots. Forward Matt Siebrandt finds ways to score near the basket, and forward Quentin Buchanan is a solid defender. It took several months, but Wooldridge and the Wildcats got good news about the standardized test score of recruit Marques Hayden, a 6-7 forward who is the centerpiece of Wooldridge's best recruiting class.

WHAT SCARES US: With Reid gone, Pasco is as close as the Wildcats have to a go-to guy. Kansas State suffered a tough blow when guard Nick Williams, a freshman who came on strong last season, decided to transfer. Williams gave the Wildcats the rare hope for a four-year impact player.

X FACTOR: Kansas State has been running on a treadmill for years now. Its last NCAA tourney appearance was in 1996, and even Wooldridge admits his program must show clear improvement this season. Among Big 12 schools, only Texas A&M and Baylor have longer NCAA droughts. The players might be more comfortable in the triangle offense and buy into Wooldridge's ideas, but gems have to emerge from this recruiting class or the Wildcats are doomed to another substandard year. —*B.K.*

Wildcats Data

Coach: Jim Wooldridge (24-34, 2 years; 253-181, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Mike Miller (2 years), Robbie Laing (2), Charles Baker (2).
2001-2002 record: 13-16.

Big 12: 6-10/T7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 109.
Last league title: 1977 (Big Eight).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Manhattan, Kan.
Website: www.k-statesports.com
Home court: Bramlage Coliseum (13,500).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
3	F	Quentin Buchanan	6-7/200	Sr.	2.5	2.4	0.9	36.9	61.1	0.0
40	F	Travis Canby	6-9/240	So.	0.9	1.5	0.4	46.7	55.6	—
13	F	M. Da Barrosa	6-7/225	So.	3.2	1.7	0.2	45.3	62.5	0.0
32	**G**	**Gilson DeJesus***	**6-5/215**	**Sr.**	**6.2**	**3.4**	**1.2**	**40.0**	**58.8**	**36.7**
2	G	Seth Elliott	6-3/200	Jr.	Comes to team from Cowley County C.C.					
11	G	Tim Ellis	6-3/180	Jr.	Is a good permiter player and defender.					
30	**G**	**Jarrett Hart**	**6-4/205**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer likely will start at off-guard.**					
23	F	Marques Hayden	6-7/240	Fr.	Rated one of the top H.S. PFs in the nation.					
44	**F**	**Pervis Pasco***	**6-9/225**	**Sr.**	**12.1**	**8.4**	**1.1**	**55.8**	**55.9**	**0.0**
22	**G**	**Frank Richards**	**6-2/180**	**Jr.**	**One of the top JC PGs in the nation last yr.**					
34	**F**	**Matt Siebrandt***	**6-8/240**	**Sr.**	**7.9**	**3.8**	**1.1**	**52.4**	**65.8**	**—**
42	F	Janerio Spurlock	6-6/215	Jr.	6.6	4.0	1.0	36.6	53.3	34.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Phineas Atchison	6-1/170	8.0	1.6	0.9	37.0	82.5	36.1
G	Larry Reid*	6-0/170	14.4	2.9	5.3	39.0	80.2	34.2
F	Travis Reynolds	6-7/210	9.4	6.3	0.8	52.9	69.7	—
G	Nick Williams*	6-4/175	Transferred to Chipola (Fla.) JC.					

Schedule

N23	BYU*	D14	at Wichita State	J18	at Kansas
N24	Toledo*	D20	Lipscomb	J22	Nebraska
N30	Northwestern	D22	Oregon State	J25	at Texas A&M
D4	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D29	Monmouth	F1	Oklahoma
D7	at Wis.-Green Bay	J2	St. Louis	F5	at Oklahoma State
D11	Texas-Pan Amer.	J6	Central Florida	F8	Kansas
		J11	Texas Tech	F11	Colorado
		J15	at Colorado	F15	at Missouri
F19	Baylor				
F22	at Iowa State				
F25	at Nebraska				
M1	Missouri				
M4	at Texas				
M8	Iowa State				
*at St. Thomas, V.I.					

12. Texas A&M

National rank 132

WHAT WE LIKE: This is an experienced bunch. After having the youngest team in school history just a couple of years ago, A&M returns all five starters and 10 lettermen. Unfortunately, this group won just nine games last season. The incoming class ranked in the top 25 for the third time in four years, and there should be some immediate contributors. Tops on the list is 6-7 swingman Antoine Wright, a versatile scorer who should ease the pressure on Bernard King. Early reviews of Wright are that he is capable enough to persuade the shot-happy King to turn playmaker.

WHAT SCARES US: The team's never-ending hunt for a point guard. Last year coach Melvin Watkins brought in two junior college players to battle for the position, and neither got the job done. This year's JC newcomer in the backcourt is Leandro Garcia-Morales, who ranked in the top 10 in the NJCAA in scoring, assists and steals. If he doesn't win the starting point guard job the Aggies are in trouble. King, who never has met a shot he didn't think he could make but can make some no one else can, promises to share the ball more now that he has some teammates who can play. With that in mind, he'll play the point on occasion. For those who have seen him play the last three years, that's a scary thought. Don't panic, Aggies fans; King's a good passer.

X FACTOR: Can this team learn how to win? Too often last season the Aggies had opportunities to beat teams they matched up well against, but they didn't get it done. Watkins ran off a couple of players, including a promising freshman, for disciplinary reasons last season, and that tough approach may bode well in terms of changing the attitude of the team. With a not-too-difficult non-conference schedule, there should be opportunities to develop confidence and cohesion. —*J.S.*

Aggies Data

Coach: Melvin Watkins (39-77, 4 years; 81-97 overall, 6 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Tom Billeter (4 years), Lew Hill (4), Bobby Kummer (4).
2001-2002 record: 9-22.

Big 12: 3-13/12th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 135.
Last league title: 1986 (tie, SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: College Station, Texas.
Website: www.aggieathletics.com
Home court: Reed Arena (12,500).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
5	**F**	**Nick Anderson***	**6-6/230**	**Jr.**	**10.1**	**5.1**	**0.6**	**43.5**	**65.7**	**38.4**
2	F	Keith Bean	6-8/255	Sr.	6.7	5.7	0.8	62.1	65.1	—
20	F	Brian Brookhart	6-10/230	Sr.	1.0	1.1	0.5	37.5	62.5	—
44	C	Nolan Butterfras	6-10/265	Jr.	0.6	1.0	0.1	28.6	44.4	—
11	F	Luis Clemente	6-8/225	Fr.	Native of Puerto Rico played at Maine Central.					
10	G	L. Garcia-Morales	6-1/180	Jr.	Rated No. 6 JC player. Ress' H.S. teammate.					
24	**G**	**Bradley Jackson***	**5-11/185**	**Sr.**	**4.9**	**2.1**	**3.4**	**37.5**	**75.0**	**32.4**
32	**G**	**Bernard King***	**6-5/195**	**Sr.**	**17.2**	**4.7**	**4.7**	**40.5**	**72.6**	**31.7**
3	**G/F**	**Jesse King***	**6-7/225**	**Jr.**	**7.5**	**3.6**	**1.0**	**41.1**	**57.7**	**41.3**
12	G	Dylan Leal	6-4/195	Jr.	1.4	0.4	0.2	36.0	—	33.3
14	F	Tomas Ress	7-0/230	Jr.	1.3	1.8	0.6	25.0	33.3	16.7
50	**C**	**Andy Slocum***	**7-0/265**	**Jr.**	**6.8**	**6.4**	**0.5**	**45.3**	**53.8**	**20.0**
22	G	Kevin Turner	6-2/175	Jr.	Father, Bill Turner, played six NBA seasons.					
23	G	Marcus Watkins	6-4/175	Fr.	Coach's son had two 50-point games in H.S.					
21	G/F	Antoine Wright	6-7/195	Fr.	SG was a *Parade* All-American.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Andy Leatherman	6-3/205	5.8	2.0	1.6	33.3	64.1	30.5
F	Larry Scott	6-6/201	3.4	1.2	0.3	44.2	50.0	38.5

Schedule

N24	Texas Southern	D15	Texas-San Antonio	J25	Kansas State
N26	at Miami (Fla.)	D21	Louisiana-Monroe	J28	at Oklahoma
N30	LSU*	D27-28	Cable Car Classic	F1	Texas Tech
D2	Oakland	J2	Centenary	F4	at Baylor
D4	Tennessee	J11	Oklahoma State	F8	Texas
D7	at Prairie View	J15	at Nebraska	F12	Missouri
		J18	at Texas	F15	at Colorado
F19	Iowa State				
F22	at Texas Tech				
F26	at Kansas				
M1	Oklahoma				
M5	Baylor				
M8	at Oklahoma State				
*at Houston					

Rank 2

Team reports by Bob Holt, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, and Mike Strange, Knoxville News-Sentinel.

Southeastern

By Matt Hayes

This is what the SEC had been striving for since the first basketball was tipped: Catch king Kentucky, and bring hoops legitimacy to a football conference.

Both have been accomplished, but it now has a new problem: "This league is full of talented teams," Georgia coach Jim Harrick says. "There just isn't one or two that stand out, and that's not good for your image."

Then again, does image really matter? The SEC is stronger than ever; Kentucky, Alabama and Florida are legitimate heavyweights, and a few others are not far behind. The objective now is to sustain the success—and to follow through on it in March.

Kentucky won the national title in Tubby Smith's first season in 1998 but hasn't made a serious run in the NCAAs since. Florida lost in the 2000 title game but has been bounced early the last two seasons. Alabama dominated the league last year but barely made a dent in the tournament. Tennessee and Ole Miss are tournament underachievers. Arkansas has dissolved into "40 minutes of what the hell is going on out there?"

There's little debating the SEC matches up with any other league, or that its players are among the nation's best. But conferences build reputations in the tournament, and that's where the SEC's identity problem begins and ends.

ASCENDING: LSU. The Tigers have looked putrid at times the last two seasons, but they went 7-4 down the stretch last season. Forward Ronald Dupree is primed for a huge season, and the Tigers finally have 13 scholarship players. Forward Tim Bush and guard Tony Gipson, a JC transfer, give LSU immediate help on the perimeter, and freshman combo guard Darrel Mitchell will play some at the point to prevent Bright from wearing down.

DESCENDING: Arkansas. Even before Nolan Richardson realized one man is not bigger than a university, Arkansas was slipping. The recruiting fell off, and the style of play wasn't scaring anyone anymore. Now the Hogs are loaded with midsize wing players but lack rebounders and a point guard. It all makes for a nice housewarming gift for new coach Stan Heath.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Tayshaun Prince, Kentucky. Chuck Hayes is a tireless worker who had a blast last season as a fan favorite. Let's see how giddy the sophomore power forward is after dealing with those Big Blue expectations of replacing Prince, who carried the Wildcats the last two years.

2. Vincent Yarbrough, Tennessee. He was an enigma for much of his time in Knoxville, but he was versatile and athletic on the wing, the type of player the Vols now are lacking. Stanley Asumnu, a steal in the recruiting wars, must develop quickly to replace Yarbrough's skills.

3. Udonis Haslem, Florida. Coach Billy Donovan says freshman Mario Boggan, a 6-7, 290-pound widebody, reminds him of Haslem. Sure, just slice away 40 pounds, add a warrior mentality and a soft touch around the basket, and you've got another Haslem. That's it.

PREDICTIONS

East
1. Florida*
2. Georgia*
3. Kentucky*
4. South Carolina
5. Tennessee
6. Vanderbilt

West
1. Alabama*
2. Mississippi State*
3. LSU*
4. Mississippi*
5. Auburn
6. Arkansas

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Maurice Williams, Alabama	6-1	183	So.
F	Ronald Dupree, LSU	6-7	210	Sr.
F	Jarvis Hayes, Georgia	6-6	230	Jr.
F	Erwin Dudley, Alabama	6-8	240	Sr.
C/F	Mario Austin, Mississippi St.	6-9	255	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Derrick Zimmerman, Miss. St.	6-2	190	Sr.
G	Ezra Williams, Georgia	6-4	235	Sr.
G/F	Keith Bogans, Kentucky	6-5	213	Sr.
F	Justin Reed, Mississippi	6-8	240	Jr.
F	Matt Bonner, Florida	6-10	237	Sr.

Player of the Year
Jarvis Hayes, Georgia

Newcomer of the Year
Antwain Barbour, G, Kentucky

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Jon Higgins, Tennessee
Best playmaker: Maurice Williams, Alabama
Best dunker: James White, Florida
Best NBA prospect: Christian Drejer, Florida
Most likely to blossom: Rolando Howell, USC
Best rebounder: Erwin Dudley, Alabama
Best defender: David Sanders, Mississippi
Best game coach: Tubby Smith, Kentucky
Most versatile: Jarvis Hayes, Georgia
Will take a charge: Matt Bonner, Florida

Georgia coach Jim Harrick and Mike Dean

FRANK POLICH FOR TSN

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Ronald Dupree, LSU. One league coach says, "They were godawful last year. Without him, they couldn't win the Southern Conference." Dupree can play with his back to the basket and is dangerous on the perimeter. Coaches are working on his ballhandling and dribble penetration. Once he gets that down, look out.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Jim Harrick, Georgia. At some point, Harrick's recruiting blunders are going to cost the program. You can't keep swinging and missing, or in Harrick's case, swinging at the

wrong pitches. Since Harrick took over in 1999, eight Georgia signees have failed to qualify. It's easy to blame that ridiculously high number on immature teenagers. But the coach has to be accountable. Part of the recruiting process is going after players who are likely to qualify—not the marginal players who make coaches sweat all summer.

BEST BETS: The signing of forward Christian Drejer, one of the top European players and a probable lottery pick had he entered the NBA draft, makes Florida a legitimate Final Four candidate. It also creates chemistry problems with moody guard James White, whose minutes likely will decrease. … After stumbling through a horrible junior season, Kentucky's Keith Bogans will regain his warrior mentality. … Florida guards Brett Nelson and Anthony Roberson, a McDonald's All-American, will alternate at point guard, much like Nelson and Teddy Dupay did two years ago. Nelson's shooting lapses affected the way he ran the team last year, and coaches are hoping Roberson can quickly adjust to college. … Tennessee forward Ron Slay, one of the SEC's most dynamic and flamboyant players, will return from last season's knee surgery and again lead the league in technical fouls. … Alabama's Terrance Meade, who slumped last season, will flourish again. It also helps to have the league's best point guard, Maurice Williams, setting it all up and the league's best post player, Erwin Dudley, opening the perimeter. **TSN**

E-mail staff writer Matt Hayes at **mhayes@sportingnews.com.**

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Florida: Adding G/F Christian Drejer punctuated an already strong class.

2. Vanderbilt: PG Mario Moore and C/F Julian Terrell will make early impact.

3. Tennessee: Five-player class led by Gs C.J. Watson and John Winchester.

4. Kentucky: G/Fs Kelenna Azubuike, JC transfer Antwain Barbour are keepers.

5. South Carolina: F Kerbrell Brown will help. Terance Kinsey can score big.

6. Arkansas: PG Eric Ferguson is tenacious defender and sound floor leader.

7. Alabama: F Kennedy Winston can score inside. F Chuck Davis has upside.

8. LSU: Burly F Tim Bush is a banger who also has a nice touch.

9. Mississippi State: G Stephen Cowherd can score and distribute. A great find.

10. Auburn: Losing scorer Terry Licorish hurts what was a strong four-player class.

11. Mississippi: G Trey Pearson is elite scorer who can contribute right away.

12. Georgia: Only G Wayne Arnold qualified academically. *—Mike Sullivan*

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Jarvis Hayes	Georgia	18.6
Ezra Williams	Georgia	16.5
Ronald Dupree	LSU	16.2
Mario Austin	Mississippi State	16.1
Matt Bonner	Florida	15.6

Name	School	RPG
Erwin Dudley	Alabama	8.9
Ronald Dupree	LSU	8.5
Chris Daniels	Georgia	8.0
Mario Austin	Mississippi State	7.6
Matt Bonner	Florida	7.2

Name	School	APG
Derrick Zimmerman	Mississippi State	6.0
Rashad Wright	Georgia	4.8
Maurice Williams	Alabama	4.5
Cliff Hawkins	Kentucky	4.3
Marquis Daniels	Auburn	4.1

Name	School	FG%
Mario Austin	Mississippi State	55.7
Erwin Dudley	Alabama	55.6
Matt Bonner	Florida	51.3
Justin Reed	Mississippi	48.0
Matt Freije	Vanderbilt	46.6

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
East								
Georgia	10	6	22	10	11	2	11	8
Kentucky	10	6	22	10	11	2	11	8
Florida	10	6	22	9	13	2	9	7
Tennessee	7	9	15	16	10	4	5	12
Vanderbilt	6	10	17	15	13	4	4	11
South Carolina	6	10	22	15	12	6	10	9
West								
Alabama	12	4	27	8	17	0	10	8
Mississippi State	10	6	27	8	13	1	14	7
Mississippi	9	7	20	11	13	1	7	10
LSU	6	10	19	15	12	5	7	10
Arkansas	6	10	14	15	11	5	3	10
Auburn	4	12	12	16	11	5	1	11

Maurice Williams

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Team stats

Total Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Florida	31	47.0	69.7	35.3	38.8	16.7	9.9	4.5	14.9	80.5
Kentucky	32	44.8	67.6	31.7	40.1	14.7	7.9	4.8	14.4	76.9
Georgia	32	44.7	73.7	32.1	38.3	15.5	8.8	3.6	14.3	76.4
Alabama	35	43.9	73.6	30.9	39.1	13.1	7.3	3.2	14.0	75.9
Arkansas	29	43.6	65.1	33.4	32.1	15.3	10.6	3.4	14.2	74.9
Mississippi State	35	48.0	65.3	34.8	38.8	16.2	8.4	3.5	16.7	73.8
Mississippi	31	46.0	73.8	38.0	33.3	13.8	7.3	1.8	15.4	72.0
Tennessee	31	45.0	68.5	34.5	37.9	14.9	6.0	3.6	16.1	71.7
Vanderbilt	32	44.4	73.2	37.0	31.9	15.3	6.5	1.8	15.9	71.6
LSU	34	45.7	67.1	36.4	35.8	13.8	8.2	2.3	15.2	68.4
South Carolina	37	43.0	66.4	34.1	33.1	15.1	9.6	2.8	13.9	68.3
Auburn	28	41.8	59.3	31.5	36.1	13.2	8.2	5.4	18.0	65.5

Total Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
South Carolina	37	43.8	70.5	28.9	34.7	12.4	6.6	2.1	18.4	61.6
LSU	34	41.7	61.9	33.0	33.2	11.9	7.7	2.7	14.9	64.0
Mississippi	31	43.2	68.4	31.9	30.8	11.6	7.3	3.6	15.8	64.3
Florida	31	40.7	68.4	33.3	34.5	13.9	7.2	2.9	18.4	66.6
Auburn	28	40.2	68.1	30.2	37.7	12.5	8.5	2.6	16.9	66.6
Mississippi State	35	41.2	68.8	30.1	32.4	11.4	7.9	2.7	15.7	66.7
Alabama	35	40.8	68.2	31.8	34.9	11.1	6.1	2.8	15.4	66.7
Kentucky	32	41.2	67.4	33.7	34.6	12.8	7.0	3.1	16.6	68.2
Tennessee	31	41.7	69.5	34.2	34.6	14.7	8.3	3.0	13.3	70.8
Georgia	32	43.0	66.3	30.9	36.1	14.9	7.4	3.8	14.8	71.0
Vanderbilt	32	45.1	69.9	32.7	34.8	13.4	8.4	3.8	15.7	72.4
Arkansas	29	42.5	69.9	33.3	40.8	13.2	5.8	3.1	19.7	72.7

National Rank 8

1. Florida

WHAT WE LIKE: Talent, depth, experience, a great home-court atmosphere, an intense coach with a dynamic system—what's not to like? There's really no reason Florida can't run with the big dogs this season. In Matt Bonner, Brett Nelson and Justin Hamilton, the Gators have three senior starters who have played a lot of basketball. Bonner and Nelson are candidates for national recognition and easily could land first-team all-SEC honors. The 6-10 Bonner, who has to be the best player ever to come out of New Hampshire, is comfortable with his back to the basket or facing it (he hit 41.7 percent from 3-point range in SEC play). He averaged 15.6 points and 7.2 boards and was a 79.6 percent free-throw shooter last year. To date, Nelson might not be the second coming of Jerry West, but the West Virginia native still is a money player who is dangerous in the halfcourt offense or in transition. He has gone through cold spells in each of the past two seasons but always rallies, as indicated by his 45.1 percent accuracy from 3-point range in SEC play last year. Hamilton is a strong defender and a complementary scorer. It wouldn't be a surprise to see either David Lee or James White become a double-figure scorer as a sophomore. The loss of center Udonis Haslem means more minutes for Lee inside, and the transfer of starting wingman Orien Greene will open the door for White, freshman Christian Dejer and senior LaDarius Halton, not to mention ballyhooed perimeter newcomers Anthony Roberson, Matt Walsh and Rashid Al-Kaleem.

Schedule

N19-29	Preseason NIT
N24	Coastal Carolina
D3	at West Virginia
D6	at Florida State
D8	South Florida
D14	at Maryland
D21	at Miami (Fla.)
D23	Charleston Southern
D28	Bethune Cookman
D30	Florida A&M
J7	at Mississippi State
J11	Georgia
J15	Tennessee
J18	at South Carolina
J22	Vanderbilt
J28	at LSU
F1	Arkansas
F4	at Kentucky
F8	Alabama
F12	Mississippi
F15	at Tennessee
F17	New Orleans
F22	at Vanderbilt
F25	South Carolina
M1	at Auburn
M4	at Georgia
M8	Kentucky

WHAT SCARES US: Haslem was such a reliable presence in the low post that he will be impossible to replace. A widebody with great hands and feet, Haslem had a knack for burying defenders and never shot below 56 percent in his career. While coach Billy Donovan's teams are known to be quick-triggered from 3-point range, he was smart enough to make the offense work inside-out when Haslem was on the court. The Gators will have to tweak the offense, space themselves to open the court and possibly run the post by committee. It would be a shame to tie the versatile Bonner to the paint. Junior Bonell Colas hasn't yet shown any Haslemesque qualities. Freshmen Mario Boggan and Adrian Moss, who redshirted last year, will get the opportunity to mix it up. Boggan, though only 6-6, weighs 290 and reminds Donovan of a young Haslem. As for the backcourt, it's a plus to have two guards—Hamilton and Nelson—capable of running the offense, though it might help to have one true point guard whose first instinct is to distribute the ball.

X FACTOR: Despite the rich talent base in the Sunshine State, Donovan knows no boundaries as a recruiter. In the recruiting coup of the summer, he enticed 19-year-old Drejer all the way from Denmark in late July to make a fabulous class even more fabulous. The 6-8 Drejer chose the Gators over a lucrative European pro contract and could be the best foreign player on the college scene this season. Drejer can play any of the three perimeter positions and brings depth to an already deep rotation. It's a good bet he'll see most of his minutes at small forward. —*M.S.*

AN SEC COACH SAYS...

If David Lee and James White play to their potential, they're as good as anybody. Justin Hamilton can win a game very quietly. The kid from Denmark (Christian Drejer) gives them the option of moving guys around. They need to keep Brett Nelson within the framework of the team. Anthony Roberson is interesting; where does he fit? With him and Nelson, there may not be enough balls. And if you don't get Matt Bonner involved, the team will suffer.

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Gators Data

Coach: Billy Donovan (124-65, 6 years; 159-85 overall, 8 years; 8-4 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Anthony Grant (6 years), Donnie Jones (6), Tom Ostrom (1st).
2001-2002 record: 22-9. SEC East: 10-6/T1st. Lost to Creighton in NCAA Midwest first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 4.
Last league title: 2002 (tie, SEC East).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Gainesville, Fla.
Website: www.gatorzone.com
Home court: O'Connell Center (12,000).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
22	G	Rashid Al-Kaleem	6-3/180	Fr.	Led his Mass. H.S. to three state titles.					
2	C	Mario Boggan	6-6/290	Fr.	Consensus top 50 recruit.					
15	**F**	**Matt Bonner***	**6-10/237**	**Sr.**	**15.6**	**7.2**	**1.5**	**51.3**	**79.6**	**37.1**
5	G	Chris Capko	6-1/173	Fr.	Walk-on from Lakeland, Fla.					
42	F	Bonell Colas	6-9/205	Jr.	3.6	2.4	0.4	45.9	78.4	—
11	**F**	**Christian Drejer**	**6-8/210**	**Fr.**	**Danish League Player of the Year.**					
3	G	Seth Haimovitch	6-1/170	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
23	G	LaDarius Halton	6-4/200	Sr.	4.2	1.5	0.7	39.0	73.2	32.7
12	**G**	**Justin Hamilton***	**6-3/207**	**Sr.**	**8.5**	**3.3**	**3.8**	**46.0**	**75.6**	**33.3**
24	**F**	**David Lee**	**6-9/224**	**So.**	**7.0**	**4.7**	**1.0**	**57.9**	**54.9**	**—**
4	F	Adrian Moss	6-9/219	Fr.	Redshirt is good rebounder/shot blocker.					
10	**G**	**Brett Nelson***	**6-4/182**	**Sr.**	**14.6**	**2.3**	**3.3**	**39.2**	**84.2**	**39.5**
1	G	Anthony Roberson	6-1/171	Fr.	A 2002 McDonald's All-American.					
44	F	Matt Walsh	6-6/200	Fr.	Has a good shooting touch.					
0	G	James White	6-6/172	So.	6.1	2.9	1.7	42.0	50.0	29.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Orien Greene*	6-4/200	Transferred to Louisiana-Lafayette.					
C	Udonis Haslem*	6-9/246	16.0	8.3	1.6	56.2	69.4	0.0
G	Ronnie King	5-11/178	1.1	1.1	0.3	45.5	50.0	0.0

National Rank 19

2. Georgia

WHAT WE LIKE: Four starters and eight of the top 10 scorers are back from a team that shared the SEC East title, and few teams in the league can claim that much experience. The Bulldogs were the surprise of the conference last season, and there's no reason to think any of the three veterans who improved so much from the previous year will backslide. Forward Chris Daniels jumped his scoring from 3.5 points to 11.2 in his first year as a starter, and his 8.0 rebounding average ranked fourth in the league. Point guard Rashad Wright virtually doubled his scoring to 9.1 points and was even better as a set-up man; he added 50 assists from his sophomore season and subtracted two turnovers for an SEC-best ratio of 2.3-1. Shooting guard Ezra Williams also took his game up a notch, averaging 16.5 points. Then there's Jarvis Hayes. The 6-7 transfer from Western Carolina silenced those who assumed his game wasn't worthy of the SEC by leading the conference with 18.6 points per game. Jonas Hayes, Jarvis' twin brother, is competent in the paint. Coach Jim Harrick knows how to diagram an offense and has the veteran club to execute it. Wright isn't flashy but has played more minutes than any point guard in the league. Jarvis Hayes can get his own shot and can't be left alone from 17 feet in. Williams is strong enough to overpower many defenders. Bonus points: All five players shoot at least 70 percent on free throws.

Schedule

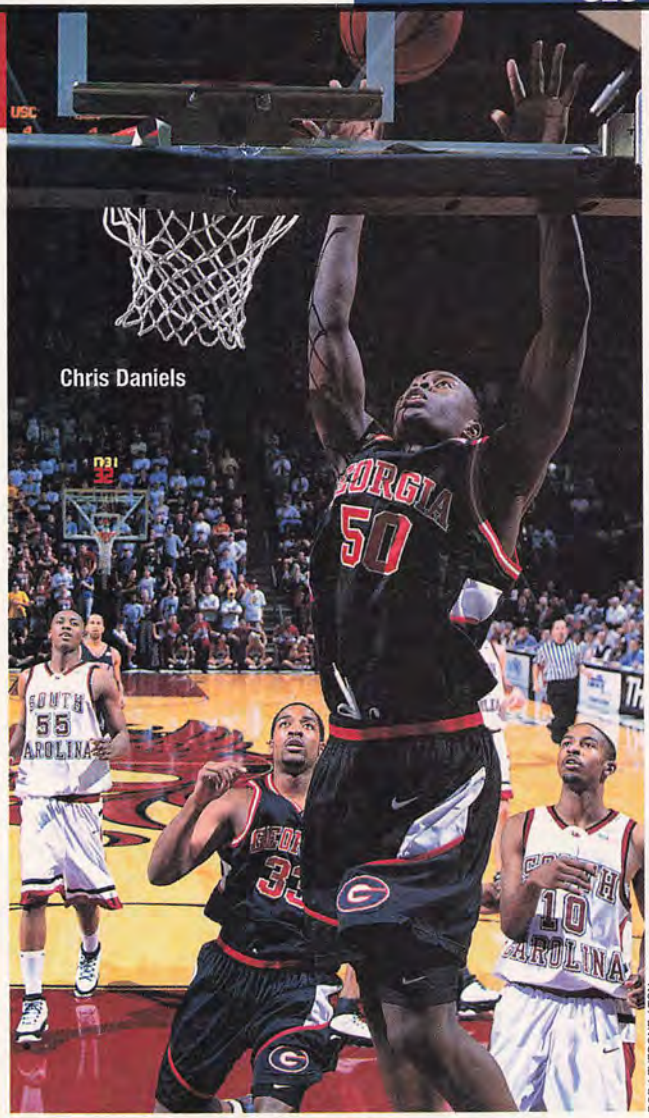
N15 Texas*
N23 Belmont
N27 at Georgia Tech
N30 at Minnesota
D3 at Colorado
D7 California**
D15 Gonzaga***
D18 South Alabama
D22 Appalachian State
D28 Wisc.-Milwaukee
D31 Pittsburgh
J5 LSU
J11 at Florida
J18 at Arkansas
J22 Tennessee
J25 Auburn
J29 at Vanderbilt
F1 Mississippi State
F8 at Tennessee
F11 at Kentucky
F15 Vanderbilt
F18 at Alabama
F22 South Carolina
F26 at Mississippi
M2 Kentucky
M4 Florida
M9 at South Carolina
*at New York City
**at Anaheim, Calif.
***at Atlanta

WHAT SCARES US: Size could be a problem. Center Steve Thomas spent the summer shrouded in a legal cloud before sexual assault charges against him were dropped in September. He then applied for reinstatement. But with or without Thomas, the Bulldogs won't have a starter over 6-8. Jonas Hayes, who has been upgraded to an official 6-8 this year, would be the tallest Bulldog and likely starter in Thomas' place. Georgia signed two big men, 6-9 Alexander Johnson and 6-11 Julius Lamptey, but neither qualified academically, at least for the fall semester. Harrick was even scouring Europe over the summer to see if he could find a big man who could play this season. The Bulldogs aren't the best 3-point shooters, either. They ranked 11th in the 12-team SEC in conference play, hitting only 29.2 percent. Aside from Williams (37.1 percent), nobody else can be counted on to knock down the big trey.

X FACTOR: The Bulldogs got tremendous mileage last season out of the league's best newcomer, Jarvis Hayes. Now it's Damien Wilkins' turn. A two-year starter at North Carolina State, Wilkins, the son of former NBA player Gerald Wilkins, sat out last season as a practice player at Georgia. Will he succeed Hayes as SEC Newcomer of the Year? Or will he be disruptive if his role isn't as significant as he wants it to be? The 6-6 Wilkins was a small forward for the Wolfpack, averaging 11.5 points and 32 minutes a game over his two years as a starter. But where he fits in this season at Georgia—where his famous uncle Dominique starred—will be interesting. The Bulldogs' two best players, Jarvis Hayes and Williams, are rock solid at the wings, and Daniels is entrenched at power forward. —*M.S.*

AN SEC COACH SAYS...

They're still as talented, one through seven, as anyone. You need somebody to give fouls eventually, and they may not have that luxury. A key is how Damien Wilkins fits into the rotation and where. Coach Harrick does a lot of good stuff to help his guys' strengths get stronger. People say Jarvis Hayes takes too many shots, but he can hit those. Everyone thinks they're vulnerable. I think they'll be fine. Jim has faced a lot of adversity in his time.



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Bulldogs Data

Coach: Jim Harrick (48-45, 3 years; 451-227 overall, 22 years; 18-15 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA title with UCLA in 1995.)
Assistant coaches: James Holland (3 years), Jim Harrick Jr. (1), Jeff Dunlap (3).
2000-2001 record: 22-10. SEC East: 10-6/T1st. Lost to Southern Illinois in NCAA East second round.
Last league title: 2002 (tie, SEC East).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Athens, Ga.
Website: www.georgiadogs.com
Home court: Stegeman Coliseum (10,523).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
34	G	Wayne Arnold	6-4/195	Fr.	Named Mr. Georgia Basketball.					
50	**F**	**Chris Daniels***	**6-7/220**	**Jr.**	**11.3**	**8.0**	**3.0**	**51.2**	**70.9**	**0.0**
2	G	Mike Dean	6-2/170	Jr.	1.8	0.4	0.8	34.9	58.8	10.0
23	G	Fred Gibson	6-4/180	So.	4.9	1.1	0.6	44.9	61.1	16.0
24	**G/F**	**Jarvis Hayes***	**6-7/230**	**Jr.**	**18.6**	**5.2**	**1.6**	**45.1**	**76.5**	**32.7**
33	**F**	**Jonas Hayes**	**6-8/250**	**Jr.**	**7.2**	**5.1**	**0.5**	**55.5**	**71.4**	**—**
15	G	Mike Patrick	6-5/180	Sr.	1.6	0.8	0.8	43.5	80.0	37.5
40	G/F	Richard Wehunt	6-4/195	Sr.	1.0	1.6	0.3	23.1	—	20.0
12	G/F	Damien Wilkins	6-7/230	Jr.	NC State transfer could see time at 4, 5.					
32	G/F	Clark Williams	6-6/195	Fr.	Won two Georgia 5A titles beside Arnold.					
5	**G**	**Ezra Williams***	**6-4/235**	**Sr.**	**16.5**	**5.4**	**2.0**	**39.7**	**76.3**	**37.1**
3	**G**	**Rashad Wright***	**6-3/190**	**Jr.**	**9.1**	**2.4**	**4.8**	**43.7**	**77.1**	**28.0**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Ryan Pevey	6-5/230	1.0	1.6	0.1	54.5	1.0	0.0
G	Tony Cole	5-10/175	Dismissed last season.					
C	Steve Thomas*	6-8/230	Suspended. Applied for reinstatement in Sept.					

National Rank 22

3. Kentucky

WHAT WE LIKE: While lacking in traditional star power, at least of the preseason variety, Kentucky once again is deep and athletic. This is a team that can sustain the offseason loss of center Jason Parker, close ranks and march on. There is more than one option at every position, and coach Tubby Smith can adjust with a big or small lineup to suit the opponent. Marquis Estill, long-but-lean Jules Camara and solid Chuck Hayes give the Wildcats a strong rotation in the paint. Estill will be a double-figure scorer with increased court time now that Tayshaun Prince is gone. Power forward Hayes was a pleasant find as a freshman, fundamentally sound and, unlike several of his young teammates, content with his role. Antwain Barbour, a versatile 6-5 JC transfer, eventually should settle in at small forward but might start the season at point guard since incumbent Cliff Hawkins is ineligible the first semester. Barbour could be headed for stardom. Kentucky, the best offensive-rebounding team in the SEC last year, will be tough on the boards and ought to be even better defensively. Gerald Fitch can lock down on perimeter shooters. Estill and Camara both ranked among the league's top five shot blockers last year (as did Prince). All this, and we haven't even mentioned four-year starter and 1,000-point scorer Keith Bogans.

Schedule

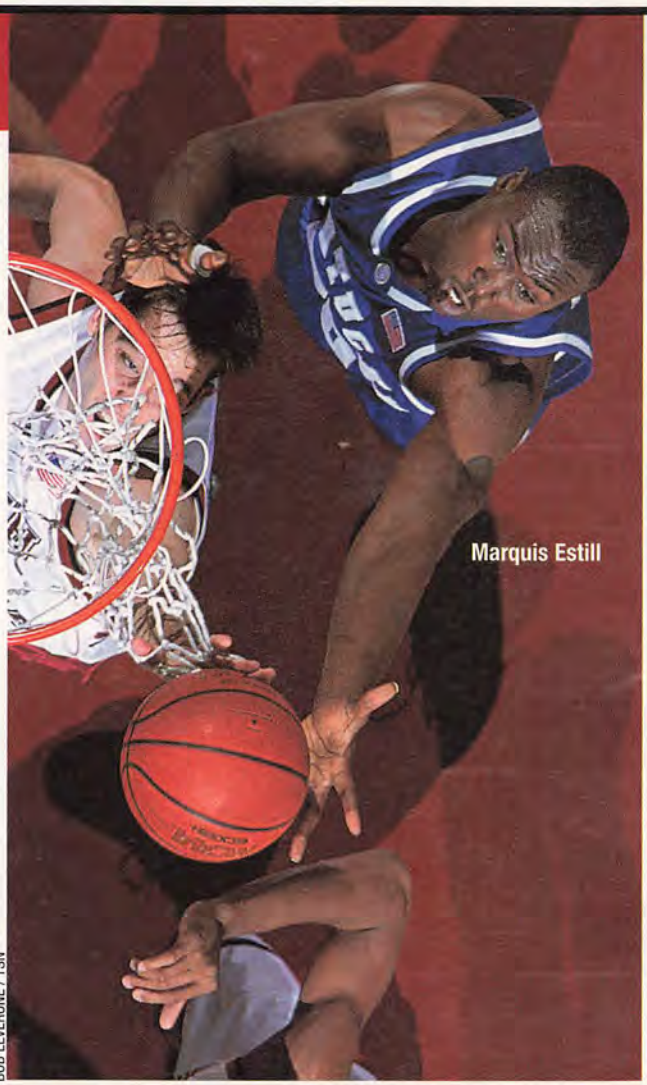
N25-27 Maui Invitational
N28 Kent State*
D3 High Point
D7 at North Carolina
D10 at Tulane
D14 Michigan State
D21 Indiana**
D28 at Louisville
D30 Tennessee State
J2 Alcorn State
J4 Ohio*
J8 at Tennessee
J11 South Carolina
J14 at Vanderbilt
J18 Notre Dame
J22 Auburn
J25 at Alabama
F1 at South Carolina
F4 Florida
F8 at Mississippi
F11 Georgia
F15 LSU
F19 at Arkansas
F23 Mississippi State
F26 Tennessee
M2 at Georgia
M5 Vanderbilt
M8 at Florida
*at Cincinnati
**at Louisville, Ky.

WHAT SCARES US: Prince made a ton of clutch baskets over the past couple of years, and his absence leaves a worrisome void. Who's the go-to guy? Who wants the ball in his hands with the clock ticking down? In a best-case scenario, it's Bogans—but he had possibly the most disappointing year of any marquee SEC player last season. He didn't exactly disappear, averaging 11.6 points, but he struggled, at times painfully. Bogans has worked to correct what Smith calls "a little glitch" in his shooting stroke. The Wildcats could certainly use a confident Bogans after he made only 31.5 percent of his 3-point tries last year. Parker, who was dismissed from the team in late August, was a true physical presence inside, someone who wouldn't get pushed around. His loss hurts this team's toughness. The point guard scenario is another open issue. Hawkins will miss the first semester due to shoddy academics. While he's sitting, the options are Barbour, Fitch and freshman Brandon Stockton. Only Stockton is a true point man, but as a 5-9 rookie, he'll have some obvious obstacles to overcome. Hawkins no doubt will reclaim the job, but even so, he has been prone to turnovers and foul trouble.

X FACTOR: The flip side of having good depth is finding enough minutes to keep everyone happy. More than one malcontent groused on the bench last season. Perhaps others were wondering what kind of per diem the Lakers were getting. That's sometimes the price you pay with high-profile recruits who are attracted to a program of Kentucky's stature. Marvin Stone transferred at the semester break, and freshmen Rashaad Carruth and Adam Chiles left after the season. Presumably, those who stayed are glad to be there. How freshmen Stockton and Kelenna Azubuike will fit in remains to be seen. And Barbour certainly will cut into some veterans' minutes. —*M.S.*

AN SEC COACH SAYS...

The whole deal of being "Kentucky" is starting to get to them. They've just got a lot of questions. What's consistent about them? It isn't Keith Bogans. It could be Gerald Fitch, but was he good because he was second fiddle to Tayshaun Prince? If Fitch can step up as a leader, they'll be fine. (A lack of leadership) is why they're not where they should be. I think that's what's driving Tubby nuts.



Marquis Estill

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Wildcats Data

Coach: Orlando "Tubby" Smith (132-43, 5 years; 256-105 overall, 11 years; 20-8 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA title in 1998).
Assistant coaches: Reggie Hanson (2 years), David Hobbs (2), Scott Rigot (1st).
2001-2002 record: 22-10. SEC East: 10/6T1st. Lost to Maryland in NCAA East semifinal.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 5.
Last league title: 2002 (tie, SEC East).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Lexington, Ky.
Website: www.ukathletics.com
Home court: Rupp Arena (23,000).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
1	G/F	Kelenna Azubuike	6-5/208	Fr.	Leading H.S. scorer in Okla. last 3 years.					
33	**G**	**Antwain Barbour**	**6-5/195**	**Jr.**	**Transfer from Wabash Valley CC.**					
10	**G/F**	**Keith Bogans***	**6-5/213**	**Sr.**	**11.6**	**4.3**	**2.5**	**39.4**	**67.0**	**31.5**
40	F/C	Jules Camara*	6-11/211	Sr.	6.1	4.0	0.7	48.8	70.6	25.0
5	G	Josh Carrier	6-5/202	So.	1.1	0.3	0.4	23.8	50.0	15.8
14	F	Erik Daniels	6-8/214	Jr.	3.7	2.9	1.2	41.8	54.8	15.8
50	**F**	**Marquis Estill**	**6-9/236**	**Sr.**	**8.9**	**4.3**	**0.5**	**62.4**	**69.8**	**40.0**
4	**G**	**Gerald Fitch**	**6-3/188**	**Jr.**	**8.9**	**5.4**	**1.6**	**45.5**	**69.6**	**34.5**
1	G	^Cliff Hawkins*	6-1/187	Jr.	7.1	2.6	4.3	39.3	60.5	31.1
44	**F**	**Chuck Hayes***	**6-6/247**	**So.**	**5.9**	**4.5**	**1.1**	**46.2**	**73.8**	**27.3**
15	G	Matt Heissenbuttel	6-4/194	Jr.	0.9	0.7	0.2	25.0	75.0	50.0
3	G	Brandon Stockton	5-9/167	Fr.	Scored more than 3,200 points in H.S.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	J.P. Blevins	6-2/180	2.1	1.1	0.8	34.1	100.0	31.6
G	Rashaad Carruth	6-3/195	Transferred to Oklahoma.					
G	Adam Chiles	6-0/192	Released from team.					
F/C	Jason Parker	6-8/250	Dismissed. Transferred to South Carolina.					
F	Tayshaun Prince*	6-9/215	17.5	6.3	1.6	46.7	70.3	34.0

^Ineligible fall semester.

4. South Carolina

National Rank 59

WHAT WE LIKE: The Gamecocks are big and physical in the paint and play good defense all over the court. Tony Kitchings is a true space-eater in the post, and Rolando Howell is an athletic forward. The third big man, Marius Petravicius, saw his role diminish late last year but is still a plus in the rotation. In coach Dave Odom's first year, the Gamecocks led the SEC in scoring defense and 3-point defense. They also were near the top in steals and turnover margin. Either veteran Carlos Powell or Chris Warren could win a starting job on a wing. Odom, at age 60, proved he still has the energy to compete in a tough league. Rallying the Gamecocks to the NIT finals after a tough SEC tournament loss to Alabama was impressive.

WHAT SCARES US: South Carolina just plain struggles to score, and the loss of senior guards Jamel Bradley and Aaron Lucas won't help. Either Bradley or Lucas led the Gamecocks in scoring in 23 of 37 games last year, and each averaged more than 30 minutes. No one else scored in double figures, although Howell was close at 9.9. Junior Michael Boynton, the heir apparent at the point, has not yet been a big scorer, and no one is likely to adequately replace long-range bomber Bradley, who hit more 3s last year (117) than anyone else in the league.

X FACTOR: In senior Chuck Eidson, the Gamecocks have one of the SEC's headiest players. Eidson, at 6-7, can play all three perimeter positions on both ends of the court. Last year, he gradually evolved into South Carolina's primary playmaker, and with the departure of Lucas, look for more of the same. In the two seasons he has stayed healthy, Eidson has averaged 92 steals. If he were a better shooter, he'd be a total package. He worked hard on his shot over the summer, and the Gamecocks need results. —*M.S.*

Gamecocks Data

Coach: Dave Odom (22-15, 1 year; 300-189 overall, 16 years; 10-8 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Rick Duckett (1), Ernie Nestor (1), Barry Sanderson (1).
2000-2001 record: 22-15. SEC East: 6-10/T5th. Lost to Memphis in NIT final.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 38.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Columbia, S.C.
Website: www.uscsports.com
Home court: Carolina Center (17,600).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
30	**G**	**Michael Boynton**	**6-2/180**	**Jr.**	**1.9**	**0.9**	**1.5**	**36.5**	**55.6**	**43.2**
32	F	Kerbrell Brown	6-8/220	Jr.	New Orleans native attended Dodge City C.C.					
54	C	John Chappell	6-10/235	So.	0.4	0.8	0.0	25.0	50.0	—
31	**F**	**Chuck Eidson***	**6-7/205**	**Sr.**	**8.8**	**3.8**	**3.5**	**39.4**	**76.3**	**30.8**
20	G	Sheldon Everett	5-7/150	So.	Transfer walk-on sat out last season.					
5	G	Jarod Gerald	6-1/185	Fr.	Will compete behind Boynton at PG.					
4	F	Ivan Howell	6-7/215	Jr.	2.7	0.9	0.4	40.5	100.0	33.3
55	**F/C**	**Rolando Howell***	**6-9/220**	**Jr.**	**9.9**	**6.0**	**1.0**	**49.8**	**56.9**	**0.0**
21	G	Terance Kinsey	6-6/180	Fr.	SG avg. 25 ppg, hit 40 percent of 3s as Sr.					
50	**C**	**Tony Kitchings***	**6-10/260**	**Sr.**	**7.0**	**6.2**	**0.9**	**45.8**	**54.4**	**0.0**
25	G	Jon Land	6-4/185	So.	0.5	0.3	0.1	20.0	100.0	0.0
23	F	Marcus Morrison	6-6/190	Fr.	Athletic, slashing ability will get him P.T.					
12	C	Marius Petravicius	6-10/250	Sr.	5.9	4.0	0.3	50.7	75.7	—
15	**F**	**Carlos Powell**	**6-7/220**	**So.**	**6.3**	**2.7**	**0.6**	**45.8**	**67.2**	**25.0**
13	F	Chris Warren	6-5/195	Sr.	4.1	2.2	0.9	34.3	77.5	32.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jamel Bradley*	6-2/170	13.1	1.9	2.4	42.4	68.3	39.8
G	Aaron Lucas*	5-11/185	10.4	2.4	3.9	41.3	66.4	30.6
F	Issa Konare	6-7/220	Transferred to High Point.					

Schedule

N24	East Tenn. State	D16	Wofford	J18	Florida	F15	Arkansas
N29	South Carolina St.	D19	at Wyoming	J22	at Mississippi St.	F19	Tennessee
N30	Appalachian State	D22	at Colorado State	J29	at Tennessee	F22	at Georgia
D2	Temple	J2	The Citadel	F1	Kentucky	F25	at Florida
D5	at Georgetown	J8	Mississippi	F5	at LSU	M1	Vanderbilt
D8	at NC State	J11	at Kentucky	F8	at Vanderbilt	M5	at Alabama
		J15	Auburn	F12	Clemson	M9	Georgia

5. Tennessee

National Rank 67

WHAT WE LIKE: Unlike Buzz Peterson's first season in Knoxville, the Vols will have at least one true point guard on the roster. Freshman C.J. Watson, from Las Vegas, will run the show from Day One. Is it too much to expect he'll have the same impact freshman point man Maurice Williams had on Alabama last year? The opportunity, at least, is there. Watson's arrival also means steady Jon Higgins can return to concentrating on his natural off-guard slot as a senior. Ron Slay's triumphant recovery from ACL surgery—he played only 14 games last year—is more good news. After 18 months under Peterson's guidance, the Vols' emotional leader should be in the best condition of his career. Even with five newcomers, UT has good chemistry possibilities because the veterans now understand the discipline Peterson demands.

WHAT SCARES US: How could the Vols possibly improve in the brutal SEC East after losing two NBA draft picks (forwards Marcus Haislip and Vincent Yarbrough)? Yarbrough and Haislip combined to score 35 points a game, and Slay is the only returnee who averaged in double figures. Athletic sophomore Derek Stribling worked hard over the summer to make himself an offensive threat, but the jury is out. Freshman Stanley Asumnu could be a surprise.

X FACTOR: In addition to Watson at the point, Brandon Crump holds the key as to whether Tennessee inches forward or slides backward on its slippery slope in a tough division. The 6-10 Crump reported to campus rail thin two years ago, but after a redshirt year made a decent showing as a freshman. He was shoved to the forefront by Slay's midseason injury, and Haislip's departure again puts pressure on Crump to grow up fast. After another offseason in the weight room, those moments when Crump gets overpowered will be fewer and farther between. —*M.S.*

Volunteers Data

Coach: Buzz Peterson (15-16, 1 year; 120-66 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Chris Ferguson (5 years), Kerry Keating (1), Al Daniel (1).
2001-2002 record: 15-16. SEC East: 7-9/4th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 40.
Last league title: 2000 (tie, SEC East).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Knoxville, Tenn.
Website: www.utsports.com
Home court: Thompson-Boling Arena (24,535).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

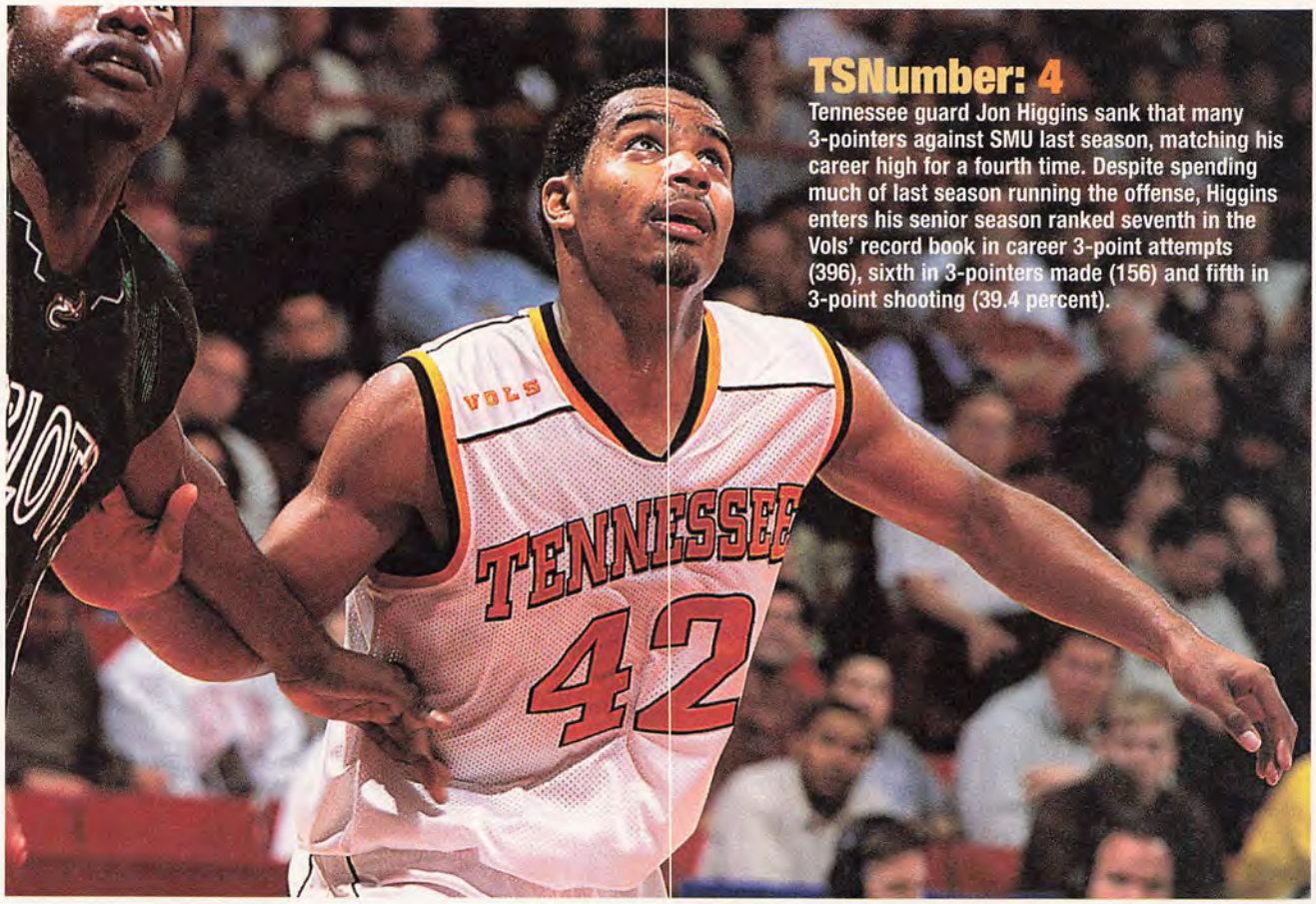
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
43	F	Justin Albrecht	6-6/215	Jr.	JC transfer. All-metro in H.S. in Omaha, Neb.					
3	G/F	Stanley Asumnu	6-5/200	Fr.	Three-time first-team all-state in Texas.					
4	**F**	**Brandon Crump***	**6-10/225**	**So.**	**7.1**	**4.2**	**0.9**	**59.4**	**55.1**	**50.0**
42	**G**	**Jon Higgins***	**6-3/190**	**Sr.**	**7.6**	**4.5**	**4.0**	**39.1**	**65.1**	**36.0**
0	C	Justin Herndon	7-0/240	Fr.	Nashville native ranks as top 100 recruit.					
10	**G**	**Thaydeus Holden***	**6-0/175**	**Sr.**	**6.6**	**2.5**	**1.4**	**36.3**	**73.0**	**33.7**
34	F	Andy Ikeakor	6-8/250	Jr.	0.6	1.0	0.6	100.0	100.0	—
35	**F**	**Ron Slay**	**6-8/235**	**Sr.**	**14.8**	**6.5**	**2.1**	**49.0**	**75.7**	**34.4**
21	F	Derek Stribling	6-6/190	So.	1.8	1.2	0.5	33.3	66.7	16.7
30	F	Zach Turner	6-7/250	Sr.	0.5	0.4	0.0	40.0	—	—
32	**G**	**C.J. Watson**	**6-2/170**	**Fr.**	**Two-time Nevada Player of the Year.**					
15	F	Elgrace Wilborn	6-8/220	So.	3.1	2.9	0.2	52.1	47.1	0.0
1	G	John Winchester	6-3/175	Fr.	Conn. native was 4th team *Parade* All-Am.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Del Baker	6-4/200	1.6	1.0	0.6	35.1	35.5	44.4
G	Jenis Grindstaff	6-2/200	6.3	2.6	3.0	43.8	81.7	31.3
F	Marcus Haislip*	6-10/230	16.7	6.7	1.0	51.8	72.1	32.6
F	Vincent Yarbrough*	6-7/210	18.1	7.5	2.8	42.5	68.7	35.9

Schedule

N22	Gardner-Webb	D23	Western Carolina	J25	Louisville	F22	Alabama
N25	VMI	D30	Tennessee-Martin	J29	South Carolina	F26	at Kentucky
D4	at Texas A&M	J4	at Texas A&M	F1	at Auburn	M1	LSU
D15	at Georgia Tech	J8	Kentucky	F5	Massachusetts	M5	Mississippi St.
D17	Charl. Southern	J11	at Mississippi	F8	Georgia	M8	at Vanderbilt
D21	at West Virginia	J15	at Florida	F12	at Arkansas		
		J18	Vanderbilt	F15	Florida		
		J22	at Georgia	F19	at South Carolina		



TSNumber: 4

Tennessee guard Jon Higgins sank that many 3-pointers against SMU last season, matching his career high for a fourth time. Despite spending much of last season running the offense, Higgins enters his senior season ranked seventh in the Vols' record book in career 3-point attempts (396), sixth in 3-pointers made (156) and fifth in 3-point shooting (39.4 percent).

6. Vanderbilt

National Rank 79

WHAT WE LIKE: Brian Thornton was a pleasant surprise as a freshman. The 6-8, 235-pound Thornton gave the Commodores a much-needed physical presence, averaging 7.2 points and 4.6 rebounds in 19 minutes a game, and that's probably more than Vandy expected. This year, Thornton needs to extend his minutes. The good news is an offseason of toning his body indicates he should be able to do just that. Matt Freije is on the verge of being an All-SEC player, but the 6-9 junior needs to be more consistent. He's a resourceful offensive player who needs to upgrade his defense and mentally stay in tune with coach Kevin Stallings.

WHAT SCARES US: The Commodores relied on the 3-point shot more than any other SEC team last year and will play this year minus Chuck Moore, Sam Howard and Brendan Plavich, who accounted for 204 of Vandy's SEC-leading 282 3s. Stallings is concerned about who can hit the big shot at crunch time, but he also figures the Commodores won't need to rely on the trey as much this year, thanks to a stronger inside game and a better defense. Those are two areas that can stand major improvements. Vandy was the worst defensive team in the SEC last year, allowing opponents to hit 45.5 percent from the field in league play.

X FACTOR: Trying to survive in the SEC, the Commodores need an upgrade in the athleticism department. This freshman class could be a big step in the right direction. Homegrown point guard Mario Moore will challenge junior Russell Lakey for a starting job sooner rather than later. Adam Payton, a 6-3 guard from New Jersey who signed late, was the talk of the summer pick-up games. Another hometown recruit, forward Julian Terrell, should provide at least some help in the paint, and 6-6 guard Bryson Krueger comes from a top-flight program in Phoenix. —*M.S.*

Commodores Data

Coach: Kevin Stallings (51-41, 3 years; 174-104 overall, 9 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Tim Jankovich (3 years), Jeff Jackson (3), Brad Frederick (3).
2001-2002 record: 17-15. SEC East: 6-10/T5th. Lost to Lousiana Tech in NIT first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 72.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Nashville.
Website: www.vucommodores.com
Home court: Memorial Gym (14,168).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
20	G	Matt Carter	6-3/185	Sr.	0.8	0.0	0.3	66.7	100.0	—
35	**F**	**Matt Freije***	**6-9/226**	**Jr.**	**15.1**	**5.1**	**1.1**	**46.6**	**76.8**	**34.0**
3	G/F	Jason Holwerda	6-5/200	So.	3.0	1.4	1.6	53.3	52.6	20.0
24	G/F	Scott Hundley	6-5/217	Jr.	3.0	2.1	1.1	42.3	73.8	19.0
12	G	Bryson Krueger	6-6/180	Fr.	Has a good mid-range game.					
11	**G**	**Russell Lakey**	**6-0/177**	**Jr.**	**2.2**	**1.9**	**2.5**	**26.8**	**58.3**	**30.0**
1	G	Mario Moore	5-11/155	Fr.	Ballhandling and quickness will help team.					
10	G	Adam Payton	6-3/180	Fr.	Led his N.J. H.S. to the state title as a Jr.					
13	C	D. Przybyszewski	6-11/240	So.	5.8	3.1	1.2	38.8	67.7	30.6
42	F/C	Martin Schnedlitz	6-10/235	So.	1.4	0.5	0.0	22.2	77.8	—
54	**C**	**Ted Skuchas**	**6-11/245**	**Fr.**	**Was one of nation's top 10 prep centers**					
44	**G/F**	**Corey Smith***	**6-5/230**	**So.**	**3.3**	**2.8**	**0.9**	**42.4**	**62.5**	**26.7**
33	F/C	Julian Terrell	6-9/220	Fr.	Two-time all-state player in Tennessee.					
2	**F**	**Brian Thornton***	**6-8/235**	**So.**	**7.2**	**4.6**	**1.0**	**51.4**	**70.3**	**—**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Sam Howard	6-3/195	9.7	1.7	1.4	45.6	68.0	42.1
G	Chuck Moore*	6-3/184	12.7	3.8	2.3	43.7	81.3	35.4
G	Brendan Plavich*	6-2/207	10.1	2.3	3.2	43.6	86.5	44.1

Schedule

N22	SE Louisiana	D10	at Indiana	J14	Kentucky	F12	at LSU
N24	Alabama A&M	D15	High Point	J18	at Tennessee	F15	at Georgia
N26	Georgia Southern	D21	at Michigan	J22	at Florida	F22	Florida
D1	Connecticut	D30	at Notre Dame	J29	Georgia	F26	Arkansas
D4	East Tennessee St.	J2	Col. of Charleston	F1	Mississippi	M1	at South Carolina
D7	Tulane	J8	at Auburn	F5	at Mississippi St.	M5	at Kentucky
		J11	Alabama	F8	South Carolina	M8	Tennessee

1. Alabama

WHAT WE LIKE: Alabama, with much of last season's nucleus returning, is poised to win back-to-back outright SEC regular-season championships for the first time since the 1938-39 campaigns. The only key player not back is Rod Grizzard, the 6-8 swingman who bypassed his senior season and was a second-round NBA draft pick. But many contend Grizzard's departure will be addition by subtraction; he took a lot of ill-advised shots (reflected by his 27.8 percent shooting on 3-point attempts) and too often disrupted the flow of the offense. Without Grizzard, senior forward Erwin Dudley, the reigning SEC Player of the Year, should get more high-percentage shots around the basket. Also, coach Mark Gottfried says Dudley has improved his play facing the basket and can hit jumpers out to 17 feet. Dudley, senior forward Kenny Walker, senior guard Terrance Meade and sophomore point guard Maurice Williams have a combined 309 starts and provide Alabama a combination of experience and talent that is rare in college basketball these days. Williams is the playmaker the Tide needed to become a national power again and should be even better as a sophomore. He distributes the ball well, and he'll have an expanded role as a scorer. Alabama knows how to win the close ones—it was 8-2 last season in games decided by 5 or fewer points—and is especially tough at home, with a 34-1 mark at Coleman Coliseum the past two years. The bench is solid with four returning reserves who averaged 10 or more minutes last season. Gottfried should be able to rotate his players so the starters stay fresh for the SEC grind.

Schedule

N14	Oklahoma*
N22	Alabama State
N25	Middle Tenn. State
N29	Ohio State**
D3	UNC Greensboro
D7	St. Bonaventure
D14	Bowling Green***
D21	Providence
D23	Morehead State
D30	at Utah
J4	Xavier
J8	Arkansas
J11	at Vanderbilt
J15	Mississippi State
J18	at Auburn
J21	at Mississippi
J25	Kentucky
F1	LSU
F5	at Arkansas
F8	at Florida
F15	Auburn
F18	Georgia
F22	at Tennessee
F26	at Mississippi State
M2	Mississippi
M5	South Carolina
M8	at LSU

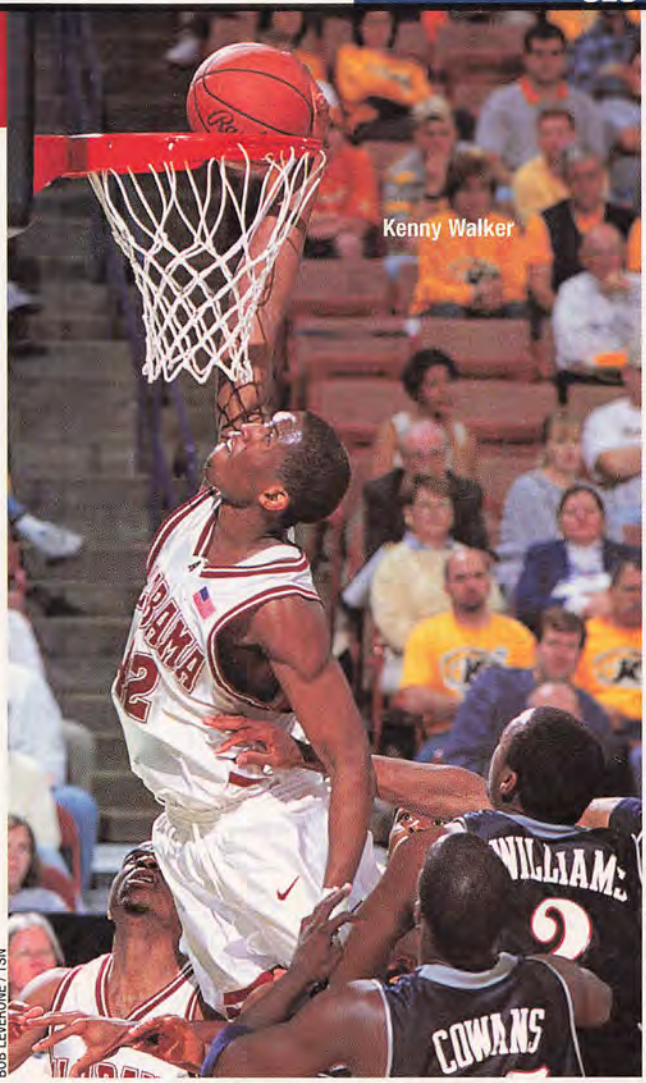
*at New York City
**at Springfield, Mass.
***at Mobile, Ala.

WHAT SCARES US: Grizzard was a liability at times with his quick shots and questionable decisions with the ball, but he was the team's second-leading scorer last season. The Tide needs other players to step up offensively on the perimeter and also help inside, where Gottfried could move Grizzard to a forward spot when Dudley or Walker left the game. Meade, who retained his starting job despite shooting 33.1 percent from 3-point range a year ago, needs to regain the touch he had as a freshman, when he shot 42.3 percent from beyond the arc. The Tide also needs sophomore guard Earnest Shelton, who ran hot and cold last season, to become a more consistent scoring threat, and Williams to improve his 26.2 percent 3-point shooting. Is there enough quality depth inside? Sophomore forward Reggie Rambo, who played sparingly last season, and freshmen Chuck Davis and Evan Brock will vie for important minutes inside when Dudley and Walker need a rest, but they might not be ready.

X FACTOR: Alabama should be a hungry team. The Tide reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1995—earning a No. 2 seed—but made an early exit with a second-round loss to Kent State. That memory should keep all of Alabama's players focused and motivated. It's also noteworthy that Alabama never has advanced beyond the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16. This season's Tide has the stuff to be a Final Four team, and making school history is a realistic goal. —*B.H.*

AN SEC COACH SAYS...

Their strength is in their backcourt, having a lot of depth, a lot of speed and the ability to bring somebody off the bench and not have a big drop-off. They probably gained by losing Rod Grizzard. It seemed like he had his own agenda. We wanted him to shoot the ball. Erwin Dudley's their best player; I don't think Grizzard would accept that, and sometimes it would hurt them. Mo Williams can blow by everybody, and he knows how to play.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Crimson Tide Data

Coach: Mark Gottfried (82-49, 4 years; 150-74 overall, 7 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: T.R. Dunn (1 year), Orlando Early (1), Philip Pearson (4).
2000-2001 record: 27-8. SEC West: 12-4/1st. Lost to Kent State in NCAA South second round.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Website: www.rolltide.com
Home court: Coleman Coliseum (15,316).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
21	F	Evan Brock	6-9/190	Fr.	Won Georgia state triple jump title.					
1	F	Chuck Davis	6-8/230	Fr.	Alabama All-State in 2001 and 2002.					
35	**F/C**	**Erwin Dudley***	**6-8/240**	**Sr.**	**15.2**	**8.9**	**1.2**	**55.6**	**67.8**	**100.0**
14	**G**	**Terrance Meade***	**6-2/190**	**Sr.**	**8.4**	**3.1**	**1.1**	**39.5**	**66.7**	**33.1**
50	**G**	**Antoine Pettway**	**6-0/170**	**Jr.**	**6.5**	**1.7**	**1.7**	**49.3**	**80.9**	**40.8**
4	F	Reggie Rambo	6-7/218	Jr.	2.3	2.7	0.1	46.3	37.9	0.0
43	G	Jason Reese	6-2/200	So.	Transferred from UAB.					
5	G	Earnest Shelton	6-3/190	So.	6.1	1.8	1.0	35.7	72.0	33.1
23	G	Demetrius Smith	6-3/215	Jr.	2.9	1.5	1.1	35.5	71.4	26.7
2	F	Emmett Thomas	6-4/205	Jr.	Starter for South Alabama in '00-01.					
42	**F/C**	**Kenny Walker***	**6-9/220**	**Sr.**	**9.2**	**5.5**	**0.3**	**50.0**	**80.3**	**0.0**
13	G/F	Lucky Williams	6-6/205	Fr.	Redshirt played on Nigerian Jr. Nat'l team.					
25	**G**	**Maurice Williams***	**6-1/183**	**So.**	**10.4**	**3.9**	**4.5**	**37.6**	**85.7**	**26.2**
3	F	Kennedy Winston	6-7/200	Fr.	Was 2002 Mr. Basketball in Alabama.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Rod Grizzard*	6-8/200	14.1	6.1	1.8	42.3	77.2	27.8
G	Solomon Davis	6-6/210	1.1	0.9	0.1	38.9	0.0	20.0
G	Travis Stinnett	6-0/164	3.3	0.9	1.0	33.3	85.7	30.4

National Rank 11

2. Mississippi State

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

WHAT WE LIKE: After leading Mississippi State to a school-record 27 victories and the SEC tournament title last season, center/forward Mario Austin was ready to turn pro. But he changed his mind and decided to return for his junior season, meaning the Bulldogs should contend for the SEC title and be in the NCAA Tournament again. Austin is a strong, aggressive, clutch player around the basket; the key for him now is to improve his game as a junior the way he did as a sophomore—without becoming distracted by thoughts of the NBA. Austin will be MSU's go-to guy, but he has a strong supporting cast headed by a very good starting backcourt in senior Derrick Zimmerman and junior Timmy Bowers. Both are athletic and hard-nosed and can make plays on offense and defense. Zimmerman proved last season he could handle being the point guard, leading the SEC in assists. He always has been a good defender—at 6-2 he led MSU with 29 blocked shots and ranked third in the SEC in steals last season—but now he's an offensive standout who gets the ball to the right person in the right spot and also can score himself when necessary. Bowers, one of the most underrated players in the SEC, is among the Bulldogs' best 3-point shooters and also is strong at driving to the basket. Senior forward Michal Ignerski has a lot of skills and a soft shooting touch for a big man and should be much improved after adjusting to SEC play last year as a junior college transfer. Sophomore Marcus Campbell, 7-0, and freshman Wesley Morgan, 7-2, give MSU good size inside and should help take some of the pressure off Austin. Campbell, who helped with his rebounding and defense off the bench last season, is ready to play a more significant role. Morgan added needed weight and strength while redshirting last season.

Schedule

N23	Louisiana-Lafayette
N25	McNeese State
N30	Jacksonville
D2	Alabama A&M
D4	Jackson State
D7	Louisiana Tech
D14	at Xavier
D18	Georgia State
D28	Oklahoma*
D30	at South Alabama
J2	at UAB
J7	Florida
J11	at LSU
J15	at Alabama
J22	South Carolina
J25	LSU
J29	at Mississippi
F1	at Georgia
F5	Vanderbilt
F8	Arkansas
F15	Mississippi
F19	at Auburn
F23	at Kentucky
F26	Alabama
M1	at Arkansas
M5	at Tennessee
M8	Auburn

*at New Orleans

WHAT SCARES US: Departed seniors Marckell Patterson and Michael Gholar, who both started all 35 games last season, provided a lot of experience, toughness and leadership for the Bulldogs and will be greatly missed. They weren't All-SEC players, but they were vital to the chemistry that fueled the late-season run in which the Bulldogs rallied from a 5-6 conference start and won nine consecutive games. The Bulldogs need to keep from getting caught up in the preseason hype and remember the focus that got them into the NCAA Tournament for the first time since their 1996 Final Four appearance. The players can't afford to let the pressure of high expectations get to them and alter the chemistry that worked so well for last season's surprising team, which was filled with question marks at the start but had all the right answers in the end.

X FACTOR: At 6-5, sophomore Ontario Harper is the same height as Patterson and Gholar and may be ready to help fill their shoes. Last season, he shook off three years of rust since his last high school action and became a key reserve, playing off the bench in all 35 games. Now the Bulldogs need Harper to play a bigger role. He's a good athlete and 3-point shooter, though he needs to improve his free-throw shooting. —*B.H.*

AN SEC COACH SAYS...

They got consistent toward the end of last year; it was a little about execution and a little about effort. Mississippi State is very physical and can beat people up. They've got a lot of big guards who can cause matchup problems. There were times when you could question, 'Why aren't they getting the ball to Mario Austin? Why are they taking that shot?' When you've got a kid like Austin, you've got to get him the ball.

Bulldogs Data

Coach: Rick Stansbury (79-50, 4 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Robert Kirby (4 years), Phil Cunningham (2), Sam Weaver (1st).
2001-2002 record: 27-8. SEC West: 10-6/2nd. Lost to Texas in NCAA Midwest second round.
Last league title: 1996 (SEC West).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Starkville, Miss.
Website: www.mstateathletics.com
Home court: Humphrey Coliseum (10,500).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
33	**F/C**	**Mario Austin***	**6-9/255**	**Jr.**	**16.1**	**7.6**	**1.3**	**55.7**	**65.8**	**20.0**
10	G	Errol Bennett	6-3/195	Jr.	Walk-on is Loyola-New Orleans transfer.					
20	G/F	Michael Boler	6-5/175	Fr.	Swingman was a standout in Miss.					
15	**G**	**Timmy Bowers**	**6-2/180**	**Jr.**	**10.6**	**2.8**	**1.5**	**42.4**	**60.3**	**36.8**
11	C	Marcus Campbell	7-0/265	So.	2.8	2.1	0.1	52.8	50.0	—
14	G	Stephen Cowherd	6-2/180	Fr.	Should back up Zimmerman at PG.					
23	G/F	Winsome Frazier	6-4/175	So.	3.3	0.7	0.5	45.5	30.0	32.1
31	**G/F**	**Ontario Harper**	**6-5/210**	**So.**	**4.1**	**2.9**	**0.7**	**48.7**	**39.1**	**45.0**
44	**F**	**Michal Ignerski***	**6-9/225**	**Sr.**	**8.8**	**3.6**	**1.2**	**46.1**	**70.5**	**36.5**
25	C	Wesley Morgan	7-2/230	Fr.	Redshirt is tallest player in MSU history.					
34	C	Lincoln Smith	6-9/270	Jr.	2.3	2.0	0.1	45.0	71.4	—
32	F	Branden Vincent	6-8/225	Jr.	JC transfer should vie for time at PF.					
22	**G**	**D. Zimmerman***	**6-2/190**	**Sr.**	**9.2**	**4.0**	**6.0**	**53.2**	**57.6**	**29.4**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Guy Gardner	6-2/175	1.4	0.5	0.9	45.2	61.9	33.3
F	Michael Gholar*	6-5/205	6.2	6.2	1.8	38.9	71.0	33.0
G/F	Marckell Patterson*	6-5/190	12.3	4.2	2.2	48.2	77.9	33.0

3. Louisiana State

National Rank 33

WHAT WE LIKE: LSU will have a full allotment of 13 scholarship players for the first time in John Brady's six seasons as coach, so Brady will have plenty of options as he looks down the bench. Every key player from last season's NIT team returns with the exception of forward Jermaine Williams; with a full roster, Brady can have tough, competitive practices to push the veterans and keep the Tigers sharp and focused. Senior All-SEC forward Ronald Dupree leads the returnees and can make big plays around the basket as well as on the perimeter. In the past, he had to play power forward because no one else could. Now he can play there as an option if Brady wants to go with a smaller, quicker lineup. Senior Torris Bright, a fourth-year starter at point guard, gives the team rich experience at the most critical position. Senior guard Collis Temple III, who can score in bunches, has been cleared to play after undergoing offseason ankle surgery. Sophomore guard Antonio Hudson also can score consistently, whether he starts or comes off the bench. Two newcomers—sophomore transfer Tony Gipson and freshman Darrel Mitchell—give LSU quickness on the perimeter, which it had been lacking.

WHAT SCARES US: The Tigers haven't had a legitimate inside game since Stromile Swift and Jabari Smith led the team to a share of the SEC title and an NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 appearance in the 1999-2000 season. The Tigers should be improved around the basket with the additions of 6-9 junior college transfers Jaime Lloreda and Shawnson Johnson, but there aren't many sure things from the JC ranks.

X FACTOR: Junior Courtney Trask, who started two seasons at Memphis before transferring, gives Auburn quality depth at point guard. He'll allow Bright to play shooting guard at times. —*B.H.*

Tigers Data

Coach: John Brady (81-70, 5 years; 170-147 overall, 11 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Butch Pierre (5 years), Rickey Broussard (1st), Mike Giorlando (1).
2000-2001 record: 19-15. SEC West: 6-10/T4th. Lost to Ball State in NIT second round.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 85.
Last league title: 2000 (SEC West).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Baton Rouge, La.
Website: www.lsusports.net
Home court: Maravich Ass. Ctr. (14,164).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
54	F	Brad Bridgewater*	6-8/250	Sr.	6.7	3.9	0.4	54.7	47.5	—
3	**G**	**Torris Bright***	**6-4/195**	**Sr.**	**13.4**	**3.8**	**3.8**	**43.4**	**70.9**	**39.4**
20	F	Tim Bush	6-6/240	Fr.	MVP of 2001 Michael Jordan camp in Calif.					
44	F	Thomas Davis	6-8/215	Sr.	4.1	2.3	0.2	54.7	63.2	100.0
12	F	**Ronald Dupree***	6-7/210	Sr.	16.2	8.5	2.1	45.2	55.9	28.7
1	G	Tony Gipson	6-2/180	So.	Swingman averaged 25 ppg in junior college.					
42	G	Antonio Hudson	6-4/197	So.	10.3	3.3	1.6	43.1	65.9	38.7
51	F	**Shawnson Johnson**	6-9/240	Jr.	**JC transfer will help inside.**					
14	F	**Jaime Lloreda**	6-9/240	Jr.	**Panama native. Colorado signee went JC.**					
	G	Darrel Mitchell	5-11/178	Fr.	La. Mr. Basketball can provide relief at PG.					
41	**G**	**Collis Temple III***	**6-7/215**	**Sr.**	**13.4**	**6.0**	**2.2**	**43.0**	**81.7**	**37.5**
10	G	Charlie Thompson	6-1/180	Jr.	1.5	0.6	1.2	36.0	91.7	41.2
21	G	Courtney Trask	6-3/177	Jr.	PG played two years at Memphis.					
	G	Xavier Whipple	6-2/175	So.	0.8	0.7	0.7	33.3	60.0	16.7

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Jermaine Williams*	6-7/185	6.3	4.6	2.6	50.4	85.4	27.3
F	Jason Wilson	6-8/240	1.7	2.1	0.2	42.9	45.2	—

Schedule

N22-24	Hisp. Coll. Fund	D21	Arizona	J18	Mississippi	F12	Vanderbilt
N30	Texas A&M*	D28	Tulane	J22	at Arkansas	F15	at Kentucky
D3	Delaware State	D30	New Orleans	J25	at Mississippi St.	F22	Arkansas
D7	McNeese State	J5	at Georgia	J28	Florida	F26	Auburn
D14	Texas A&M-C.C.	J8	Houston	F1	at Alabama	M1	at Tennessee
D17	Prairie View	J11	Mississippi State	F5	South Carolina	M5	at Mississippi
		J15	Centenary	F8	at Auburn	M8	Alabama

4. Mississippi

National Rank 43

WHAT WE LIKE: Ole Miss returns four starters, including its top three scorers and top four rebounders, from last season's NCAA Tournament team. The Provine Posse of junior forward Justin Reed, senior guard David Sanders and junior guard Aaron Harper—who were teammates at Jackson (Miss.) Provine High School—is back to lead the Rebels. While Reed was the team's top scorer and rebounder last season and remains one of the SEC's best low-post scorers, Sanders was selected MVP by the Rebels coaches. That's because he shot 50.7 percent from 3-point range, can play the point and is a tough defender who rebounds well for his size. Coach Rod Barnes calls Sanders the Rebels' "unsung hero." Harper is the team's most productive 3-point shooter in terms of baskets made and is capable of carrying the offense when he's hot. Senior forward Derrick Allen is a strong, physical presence inside and should be helped by the return of senior John Gunn, who redshirted last season because of a kidney ailment. Gunn will help spell Allen and keep him from wearing down as he did late last season. Senior guard Emmanuel Wade has a steady all-around game and looks ready to become a full-time starter.

WHAT SCARES US: The Rebels must replace little big man Jason Harrison, the 5-5 point guard who was the team's playmaker and emotional leader. Sanders has the skills to play the point and worked there last year when Harrison was out of the game. But if Sanders has to play at the point extensively, it will limit his effectiveness in other areas. While it's likely Barnes will have Sanders at the point to open the season, the Rebels hope sophomore Justin Johnson or freshman Trey Pearson can play key minutes there.

X FACTOR: In Ole Miss' five NCAA Tournament seasons the previous six years, the team returned at least three starters. —*B.H.*

Rebels Data

Coach: Rod Barnes (86-46, 4 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Eric Bozeman (4 years), Wayne Brent (4), Grant Pate (1st).
2001-2002 record: 20-11. SEC West: 9-7/3rd. Lost to UCLA in NCAA West first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 22.
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Oxford, Miss.
Website: www.olemisssports.com
Home court: Tad Smith Coliseum (8,700).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
40	**F**	**Derrick Allen***	**6-8/238**	**Sr.**	**8.9**	**5.9**	**0.8**	**53.1**	**70.5**	**—**
4	G/F	Kendrick Fox	6-7/210	So.	2.2	0.9	0.6	49.1	80.0	40.6
31	F/C	John Gunn	6-10/260	Jr.	Had two kidney surgeries last season.					
5	**G/F**	**Aaron Harper***	**6-7/217**	**Jr.**	**11.9**	**4.3**	**1.6**	**41.4**	**63.3**	**39.7**
34	F	Shaun Holtz	6-8/250	Sr.	Transfer played three seasons at Towson.					
54	F	Lonnie Jackson	6-8/195	So.	Transfer from Okaloosa-Walton C.C.					
12	G	Justin Johnson	6-0/200	So.	1.7	0.8	0.6	45.0	75.0	33.3
45	F	Richard Kirklin	6-9/215	Sr.	1.6	1.0	0.5	39.2	46.2	18.2
44	G	Jonathan Loe	6-3/185	Fr.	Redshirt adds depth in the backcourt.					
21	G	Cavadas Nunnery	5-9/165	So.	1.5	0.7	0.5	34.8	66.7	50.0
2	G	Trey Pearson	6-4/165	Fr.	PG averaged 30 ppg, 10 rpg, 6 spg as Sr.					
23	**F**	**Justin Reed***	**6-8/240**	**Jr.**	**14.6**	**6.6**	**1.1**	**48.0**	**78.7**	**27.6**
33	F	Chris Rhodes	6-7/220	So.	0.5	1.0	0.1	42.9	14.3	—
15	**G**	**David Sanders***	**6-3/185**	**Sr.**	**12.5**	**4.6**	**2.7**	**54.9**	**70.5**	**50.7**
32	**G**	**Emmanuel Wade**	**6-3/185**	**Sr.**	**7.0**	**3.3**	**1.5**	**40.9**	**79.4**	**35.4**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jason Harrison*	5-5/155	9.7	1.7	3.9	39.5	86.0	34.7

Schedule

N24	at East Carolina	D19	at Memphis	J18	at LSU	F12	at Florida
N26	Alabama State	D21	Nicholls State	J21	Alabama	F15	at Mississippi St.
N30	at George Mason	D23	Evansville	J25	Arkansas	F22	Auburn
D4	Austin Peay	D28	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	J29	Mississippi State	F25	Georgia
D14	Va. Commonwealth	D31	Samford	F1	at Vanderbilt	M2	at Alabama
D17	Louisiana-Monroe	J8	at South Carolina	F5	at Auburn	M5	LSU
		J11	Tennessee	F8	Kentucky	M8	at Arkansas

5. Auburn

National Rank 72

WHAT WE LIKE: The Tigers went to a youth movement last season, meaning four returning sophomores—forwards Brandon Robinson and Marco Killingsworth and guards Lewis Monroe and Dwayne Mitchell—gained a lot of experience. Robinson is skilled for a 6-8 player, but he has to improve his 3-point shooting (29.5 percent) and free-throw shooting (45.0 percent) to become an impact player. Monroe's solid play at the point will allow senior Marquis Daniels, who was forced to play out of position at point guard much of last season, to return to his natural small forward spot. Daniels' scoring average dipped to 11.6 points last year after he averaged 15.7 as a sophomore, but he'll get more scoring opportunities. Senior guard Derrick Bird made the transition last season as a junior college transfer and was Auburn's second-leading scorer. Junior center Kyle Davis, the SEC's top shot blocker last season despite missing four games with injuries, gives the Tigers a strong defensive presence around the basket.

WHAT SCARES US: All these returning Tigers are the same guys who were on the SEC's worst offensive team last season. Auburn ranked last in the SEC in field-goal shooting (41.8 percent) and free-throw shooting (59.3) and averaged 18.0 turnovers compared to 13.2 assists. Now that the players have some experience, they had better start shooting and handling the ball a lot better. Guard Adam Harrington, the Tigers' best 3-point threat a year ago, chose to enter the NBA draft but was not drafted. He'll be missed when the Tigers need a 3.

X FACTOR: The Tigers have to prove they can win on the road if they want to move up in the SEC West. Last season, Auburn was 0-9 on the road, and the Tigers have lost 13 consecutive road games overall.

Tigers Data

Coach: Cliff Ellis (150-99, 8 years; 498-311 overall, 27 years; 6-7 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Shannon Weaver (5 years), Charlton Young (5), Tracy Dildy (1st).
2001-2002 record: 12-16. SEC West: 4-12/6th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 76.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Auburn, Ala.
Website: www.auburntigers.com
Home court: Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum (10,500).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	**Derrick Bird***	**6-4/195**	**Sr.**	**10.6**	**3.2**	**1.1**	**38.8**	**69.0**	**30.9**
33	F	Donny Calton	6-6/220	Sr.	1.0	0.5	0.2	30.8	40.0	—
3	F	**Marquis Daniels***	**6-6/200**	**Sr.**	**11.6**	**5.3**	**4.1**	**44.2**	**63.5**	**35.5**
34	C	Kyle Davis	6-10/235	Jr.	5.6	5.1	0.5	46.4	49.2	—
	G	Troy Gaines	5-11/180	Jr.	PG replaces ineligible recruit Terry Licorish.					
4	F	**M. Killingsworth***	**6-7/235**	**So.**	**7.8**	**4.2**	**0.9**	**52.9**	**52.1**	**20.0**
5	G	Steve Leven	6-4/195	Fr.	Gives team depth on the wing.					
55	G	Chris Lollar	6-0/190	Jr.	Good defender. Will battle to start at PG.					
23	G	Dwayne Mitchell	6-4/200	So.	3.5	2.5	1.8	42.7	52.1	25.0
22	G	**Lewis Monroe***	**6-5/190**	**So.**	**2.7**	**2.2**	**2.5**	**33.3**	**76.9**	**11.8**
13	F	**Brandon Robinson***	**6-8/215**	**So.**	**8.5**	**5.2**	**0.6**	**46.3**	**45.0**	**29.5**
32	F	Rodney Tucker	6-8/250	Jr.	Played at Florida State in 1999-2000.					
24	G	Nathan Watson	6-3/180	So.	2.0	1.0	0.3	29.7	42.9	25.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Adam Harrington	6-5/200	10.1	3.5	1.5	38.8	69.6	35.1
F	Mack McGadney	6-7/250	4.4	1.9	0.1	29.8	80.0	36.4

Schedule

N22	Wofford	D15	Marshall*	J22	at Kentucky
N26	Georgia State	D17	Western Michigan	J25	at Georgia
D1	at Western Kentucky	D20-22	San Juan S.O.	F1	Tennessee
D2	SE Louisiana	D30	Southern Miss	F5	Mississippi
D4	South Carolina St.	J8	Vanderbilt	F8	LSU
D8	Rutgers	J11	at Arkansas	F15	at Alabama
D14	Murray State	J15	at South Carolina	F19	Mississippi State
		J18	Alabama		

F22	Mississippi		
F26	at LSU		
M1	Florida		
M5	Arkansas		
M8	at Mississippi St.		
*at Mobile, Ala.			

6. Arkansas

National Rank 102

WHAT WE LIKE: Forwards Dionisio Gomez, Michael Jones, Carl Baker and Alonzo Lane averaged only 17.2 points between them last season, but there is hope up front because all four showed promise, with career highs ranging from 23 points to 17. With new Arkansas coach Stan Heath stressing inside play—an afterthought in recent seasons under Nolan Richardson—any or all of these guys could give the Razorbacks a presence around the basket. Rebounding, a weakness in the past because the Razorbacks extended their defense, should be improved based on Heath's lone season at Kent State, where the Golden Flashes went from last to first in the MAC in rebounding margin despite starting three guards.

WHAT SCARES US: With J.J. Sullinger's transfer to Ohio State and Charles Tatum's knee injury, Arkansas must count on an all-freshman backcourt rotation of Kendrick Davis, Eric Ferguson and Jonathon Modica. All three appear ready to contribute, but they'll get schooled in some games. Ferguson will take over at point guard. Davis also can play the point, while Modica figures to be the team's top perimeter scorer. If the guards struggle to run the offense, it will hamper Heath's plan to build an inside game.

X FACTOR: When a new coach takes over a team with several returning players and implements a new style, he might be met with resistance. Heath experienced that at Kent State, as the Flashes started 4-4 before the players—and Heath—adjusted and the team finished 30-6 and reached the Elite Eight. Heath won't encounter opposition to the style change he'll make at Arkansas, where the focus will go from fullcourt pressure and 3-pointers off the break to set plays, getting the ball inside and rebounding. The players will be receptive because the veterans are forwards eager to be more involved in the offense, and they're motivated after going 14-15 last season. —*B.H.*

Razorbacks Data

Coach: Stan Heath (1st year; 30-6 overall, 1 year; 3-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Byron Boudreaux (1st year), Rob Flaska (1st), Oronde Taliaferro (1st).
2001-2002 record: 14-15. SEC West: 6-10/5th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 55.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Fayetteville, Ark.
Website: www.hogwired.com
Home court: Bud Walton Arena (19,200).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	F	**Carl Baker**	**6-8/209**	**Sr.**	**3.8**	**2.8**	**0.7**	**39.3**	**61.3**	**35.0**
43	G	Jamar Blackmon	6-3/191	Jr.	0.5	0.0	0.0	20.0	—	0.0
12	G	**Kendrick Davis**	**6-3/185**	**Fr.**	**Lefty should get the nod at SG.**					
21	G	Blake Eddins	6-7/213	Sr.	0.9	1.1	0.4	24.3	—	21.4
11	G	**Eric Ferguson**	**6-2/185**	**Fr.**	**Former Villanova signee could start at PG.**					
33	F	**Dionisio Gomez***	**6-8/218**	**Sr.**	**5.1**	**5.0**	**1.3**	**52.6**	**60.0**	**25.0**
5	F	Matt Jones	6-6/215	So.	4.2	2.3	0.9	47.7	19.0	—
1	F	Michael Jones	6-9/203	So.	4.6	1.6	0.3	48.3	77.8	33.3
31	F	**Alonzo Lane**	**6-7/246**	**Sr.**	**3.7**	**2.2**	**0.4**	**43.2**	**60.8**	—
24	G/F	Jonathon Modica	6-4/185	Fr.	One of most highly-touted in-state recruits.					
2	G/F	Wenbos Mukubu	6-5/220	Fr.	Athleticism will get him minutes.					
50	F	Larry Satchell*	6-9/227	Sr.	2.8	2.8	0.6	45.0	44.2	—
20	F	Rashard Sullivan	6-9/220	Fr.	Gives team much-needed height.					
3	G	^Charles Tatum	5-10/182	Sr.	3.4	0.4	0.6	30.8	76.5	26.4

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	T.J. Cleveland	6-1/168	4.1	2.0	2.3	30.1	68.3	21.0
G	Brandon Dean*	6-1/200	12.2	2.9	2.0	48.4	71.7	35.6
G	Teddy Gipson*	6-4/170	7.6	1.8	1.4	46.6	61.1	35.1
G	Jannero Pargo*	6-2/165	16.6	2.4	3.3	46.0	78.1	43.2
G/F	J.J. Sullinger	6-5/195	Transferred to Ohio State.					

^Expected to redshirt.

Schedule

N22	Jackson State	D18	Sam Houston St.	J18	Georgia
N26	at Oral Roberts	D21	SW Texas State	J22	LSU
N30	Tulsa	D28	Centenary	J25	at Mississippi
D3	Troy State	D30	at Oklahoma St.	F1	at Florida
D7	Illinois*	J2	Memphis	F5	Alabama
D10	Louisiana Tech	J8	at Alabama	F8	at Mississippi St.
		J11	Auburn	F12	Tennessee

F15	at South Carolina		
F19	Kentucky		
F22	at LSU		
F26	at Vanderbilt		
M1	Mississippi State		
M5	at Auburn		
M8	Mississippi		
*at N. Little Rock, Ark.			

Pacific-10

The NCAA appearances and Sweet 16s are one thing. Here's another way to tell the Pac-10 has arrived: The NBA draft is having a heavy impact on the conference race. Last season, Arizona was shaken up. This season, Stanford and California will be hurt by early NBA losses. In addition, USC must deal with the departure of three centerpiece players, all of whom were seniors. Overall, the league has lost 18 players to the NBA draft in the past two seasons, with seven leaving before their eligibility expired.

Arizona rebuilt quickly from its three early departures in 2001, making itself the odds-on favorite this season. Oregon has plenty of talent even though Frederick Jones was drafted in the first round of June's draft. USC and Arizona State are loaded with exciting, athletic players, and if new coach Lorenzo Romar can heal the chemistry divisions at Washington, the Huskies have enough talent to challenge for an upper-division spot.

ASCENDING: Arizona. The rest of the Pac-10 didn't take advantage of Arizona's "rebuilding year" in 2001-02—the young Wildcats finished in a second-place tie and won the league's newly reinstated tournament. No one will say the Wildcats are rebuilding this season. The league's top recruiting class adds to a talent base that is led by point guard Jason Gardner, who nearly joined his four teammates in the 2001 NBA draft pool, and forward Luke Walton, who might be the country's best all-around player.

DESCENDING: Stanford. Losing three players early to the NBA draft is part of life for many elite teams. Not at Stanford, which lost Jason Collins in 2001 and then lost Curtis Borchardt and Casey Jacobsen in June. Academic hurdles narrow the field of replacements, and the program usually does not rush talent along. Coach Mike Montgomery is back to relying on the system more than the stars.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Curtis Borchardt, Stanford. The Cardinal doesn't have a player who can replace Borchardt's shot blocking, rebounding and scoring ability in the post. Joe Kirchofer will add some offense, Rob Little provides size and Teyo Johnson is a fantastic athlete. But none of them can change the game the way Borchardt did when healthy.

2. Casey Jacobsen, Stanford. The off-guard takes with him an uncanny ability to create and hit clutch shots. He also provided leadership and perimeter rebounding. Sophomore swingman Josh Childress will be leaned on for go-to duty, but Stanford needs to find other scorers, too.

PREDICTIONS

1. Arizona*
2. Oregon*
3. UCLA*
4. USC*
5. California*
6. Arizona State
7. Stanford
8. Washington
9. Oregon State
10. Washington State

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Luke Ridnour, Oregon	6-2	175	Jr.
G	Jason Gardner, Arizona	5-10	181	Sr.
F	Luke Walton, Arizona	6-8	241	Sr.
F	Jason Kapono, UCLA	6-8	213	Sr.
F	Luke Jackson, Oregon	6-7	210	Jr.

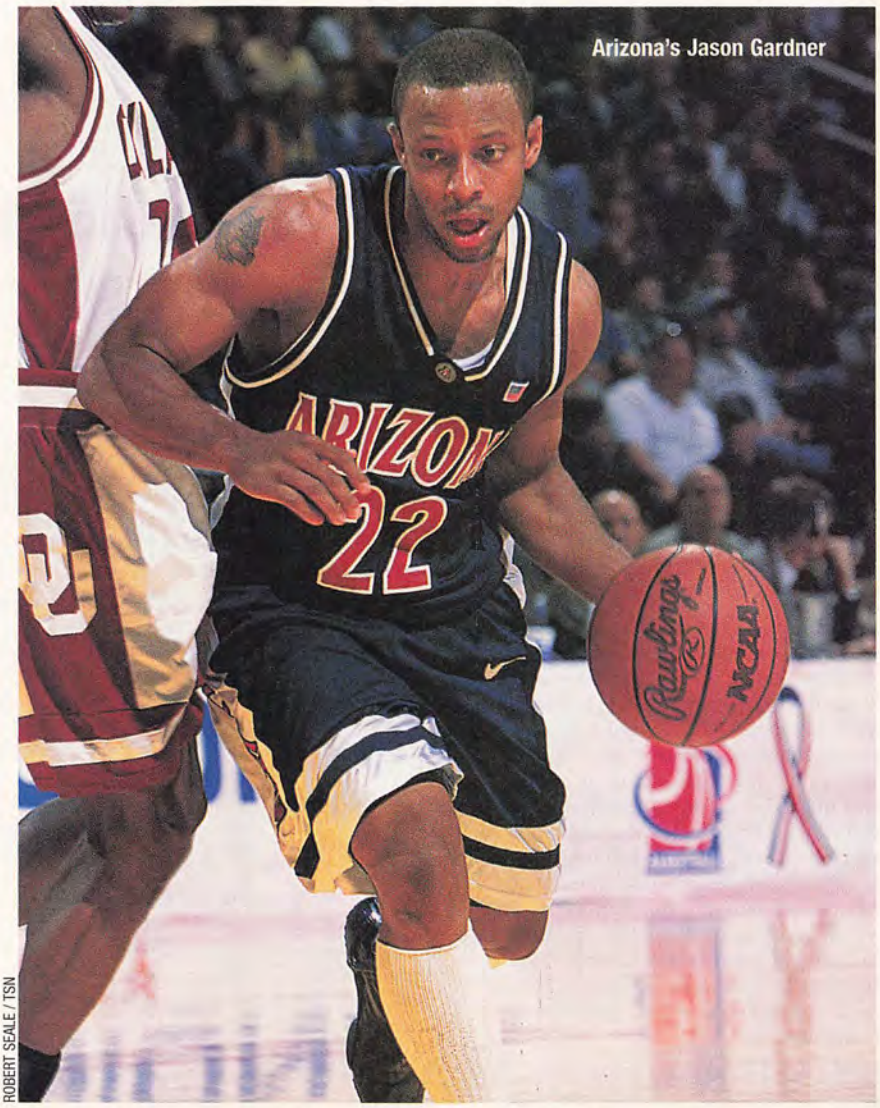
Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Marcus Moore, Washington St.	6-6	182	Jr.
G	Errick Craven, USC	6-2	190	So.
F	Doug Wrenn, Washington	6-8	220	Jr.
F	Salim Stoudamire, Arizona	6-1	176	So.
C	Philip Ricci, Oregon State	6-7	250	Sr.

Player of the Year
Luke Walton, Arizona

Newcomer of the Year
Brandon Brooks, G, USC

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Jason Kapono, UCLA
Best playmaker: Luke Ridnour, Oregon
Best dunker: Doug Wrenn, Washington
Best NBA prospect: Luke Ridnour, Oregon
Most likely to blossom: Curtis Millage, Arizona St.
Best rebounder: Luke Walton, Arizona
Best defender: Errick Craven, USC
Best game coach: Henry Bibby, USC
Most versatile: Luke Walton, Arizona
Will take a charge: Luke Jackson, Oregon



Arizona's Jason Gardner

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. **Arizona:** Among Lute Olson's best. Added enough defense, athleticism on wing for title run.
2. **UCLA:** Two-sport athletes Marcedes Lewis and Matt McKinney could make a difference.
3. **Arizona State:** Big man Ike Diogu, wing Jamal Hill could be go-to guys from the start.
4. **Washington:** Seattle natives Brandon Roy and Anthony Washington are highly regarded.
5. **Oregon:** JC transfer Andre Joseph must help replace the scoring of Frederick Jones.
6. **USC:** Look for PG Brandon Brooks to have the most immediate impact.
7. **California:** David Paris and Rod Benson should provide much-needed inside help.
8. **Oregon State:** PG Lamar Hurd was brought in to feed OSU's talented post men.
9. **Stanford:** A solid class, but there is no Jacobsen or Collins in the group.
10. **Washington State:** Cougars culled the JC ranks to add beef to their inside game.

3. Sam Clancy, USC. Sure, the Trojans lost their glue with the departure of four-year starting point guard Brandon Granville. But thanks to the arrival of JC transfer guard Brandon Brooks, the team's biggest problem will be replacing the consistent interior scoring and rebounding of Clancy. The long, athletic Jerry Dupree has a different build, but he could collect some of the points.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Marcus Moore, Washington State. So who's the Pac-10's best point: Gardner or Oregon's Luke Ridnour? Actually, a pretty good case can be made for Moore, a 6-6 junior lefty who can shoot well and guard a small forward if necessary. But playing for a poor team in the lonely Palouse ensures his anonymity in a league full of good point guards. Moore's effectiveness is reduced by the Cougars' heavy reliance on him. He averaged more than 35 minutes a game in Pac-10 play last season.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Paul Graham, Washington State. Graham fought for decades to get a head coaching position, and he wasn't about to complain when it was Wazzu. But when he arrived in 1999, he started on the ground floor with players who didn't know how to win, fans who didn't care and a recruiting advantage that didn't exist. The Cougars have brandished a pulse under the intensely competitive Graham but haven't made a jump in the Pac-10's lower half. Graham's squad must show signs of improvement this season, especially because he recruited all but one of the players on the roster. His fate may be determined in the first four Pac-10 games—Washington State must win at least once.

BEST BETS: Arizona will split the season series with Oregon but ultimately win the Pac-10 regular season and repeat as tournament champion. … Look for breakout seasons from Cal's Amit Tamir, Stanford's Childress, USC's Dupree, UCLA's Dijon Thompson, Arizona State's Curtis Millage and Arizona's Channing Frye. … UCLA and Arizona, both loaded with talent, will have a player transfer before the end of the season. … The scare for UCLA this season at Pauley Pavilion: a game with Long Beach State on December 8. … The toughest Pac-10 road venue won't be Stanford's much-hyped Maples Pavilion or Oregon's creaky McArthur Court but Cal's Haas Pavilion. The Bears again will lose only once in league play inside their comfy, vertical home arena. … How is this for a competitive all-football-player team: Nate Robinson, guard, Washington; Charles Frederick, guard, Washington; Marcedes Lewis, forward, UCLA; Johnson, forward, Stanford; and Gregg Guenther, forward/center, USC. **TSN**

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Jason Gardner	Arizona	20.4
Doug Wrenn	Washington	19.5
Luke Jackson	Oregon	16.7
Marcus Moore	Washington State	16.6
Philip Ricci	Oregon State	16.2

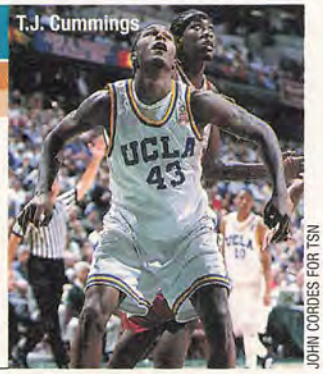
Name	School	RPG
Robert Johnson	Oregon	7.5
Luke Walton	Arizona	7.3
Rick Anderson	Arizona	7.2
Philip Ricci	Oregon State	7.1
Doug Wrenn	Washington	6.4

Name	School	APG
Luke Walton	Arizona	6.3
Luke Ridnour	Oregon	5.0
Marcus Moore	Washington State	4.9
Jason Gardner	Arizona	4.6
Curtis Allen	Washington	4.3

Name	School	FG%
Channing Frye	Arizona	59.5
Brian Jackson	Oregon State	53.9
Philip Ricci	Oregon State	53.7
T.J. Cummings	UCLA	51.0
Rick Anderson	Arizona	49.2

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Oregon	14	4	26	9	16	0	10	9
California	12	6	23	9	17	1	6	8
Arizona	12	6	24	10	9	4	15	6
USC	12	6	22	10	11	2	11	8
Stanford	12	6	20	10	10	3	10	7
UCLA	11	7	21	12	11	4	10	8
Arizona State	7	11	14	15	10	5	4	10
Washington	5	13	11	18	6	6	5	12
Oregon State	4	14	12	17	8	7	4	10
Washington State	1	17	6	21	6	8	0	13


T.J. Cummings

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Team stats

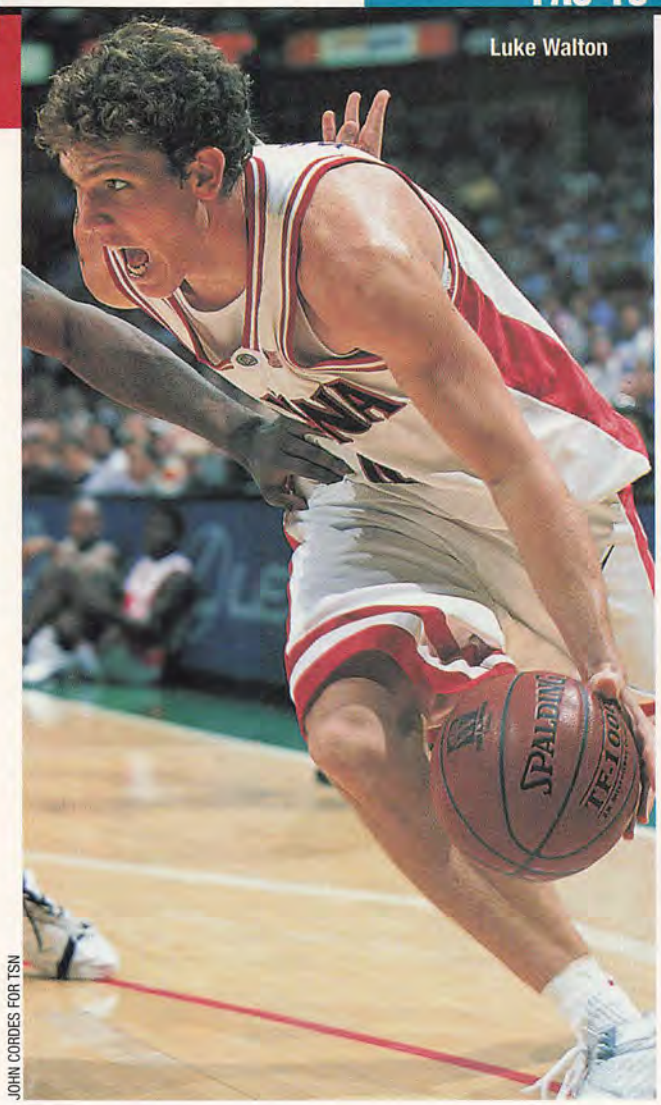
Total offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Oregon	35	48.7	76.9	42.2	36.6	16.6	7.5	3.3	13.8	85.5
Arizona	34	45.9	73.1	37.6	37.8	15.5	6.1	3.0	14.1	82.1
Stanford	30	45.1	70.0	34.0	41.8	16.0	5.0	4.4	13.6	80.7
USC	32	44.1	69.2	34.7	38.5	15.8	9.0	4.0	12.2	77.9
Arizona State	29	45.5	65.6	33.4	37.0	16.4	7.2	2.7	15.1	76.9
UCLA	33	47.2	69.2	39.0	36.6	14.5	5.5	2.8	15.0	75.0
California	32	45.2	67.7	31.4	34.0	15.2	7.9	4.1	13.2	72.2
Washington	29	44.0	67.0	36.9	36.3	13.4	5.6	4.8	17.3	72.0
Washington State	27	41.5	70.6	32.1	33.8	10.9	6.1	2.3	15.4	70.4
Oregon State	29	44.9	72.5	35.4	30.2	13.8	4.4	2.4	14.3	64.3

Total defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Oregon State	29	43.0	69.0	34.9	34.3	13.2	7.0	2.8	12.5	66.5
California	32	41.8	66.6	34.4	35.6	13.5	5.0	2.8	17.2	66.6
USC	32	42.3	68.4	33.7	36.5	14.0	4.9	3.2	17.2	69.8
Oregon	35	42.9	68.0	33.8	34.1	12.2	6.9	2.5	15.3	72.5
Stanford	30	42.1	69.4	35.1	33.3	13.0	7.1	2.7	12.3	72.7
UCLA	33	42.5	71.6	33.3	33.7	14.4	5.7	2.5	13.7	72.7
Arizona State	29	45.5	74.8	34.0	32.8	13.3	5.8	3.7	17.5	73.9
Washington	29	44.1	68.5	36.1	37.1	13.8	7.7	3.3	13.7	77.1
Arizona	34	43.7	70.1	34.8	37.3	15.7	6.2	3.4	13.5	77.7
Washington State	27	49.8	72.0	38.3	35.3	15.9	5.7	3.2	14.3	79.1

1. Arizona


Luke Walton

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

WHAT WE LIKE: This could be the Wildcats' best team under Lute Olson. There is depth, talent, size and athleticism. There is a laid-back yet intensely competitive leader on and off the court in forward Luke Walton, a scoring point guard in Jason Gardner, an emerging star big man in Channing Frye, a solid shooter in Salim Stoudamire and more athleticism with the arrivals of forward Andre Iguodala and guard Hassan Adams. This is a team that sustained no significant losses—and welcomes perhaps its best recruiting class. The Wildcats' defensive weaknesses should be improved because of Iguodala and Adams, while explosive Will Bynum may serve as a backup point guard to Gardner since freshman Chris Rodgers' academic eligibility was in question in August. Stoudamire, Adams and Bynum will share time at off-guard. Stoudamire is one of the league's best shooters, while Adams and Bynum are explosive. The Wildcats can use two of those three on the wing if they want to go small, or they can put Iguodala at small forward and push Walton from small to power forward to maximize athleticism. Arizona also has Rick Anderson, a sleek power forward, and rebounders Isaiah Fox and Dennis Latimore. The team's practices should be more competitive than many of its games. That's the way Olson, who does his best work in practice situations, likes it.

Schedule

N23	Western Kentucky
N27	Northern Arizona
D3	Saint Louis
D7	at San Diego State
D15	Texas
D21	at Louisiana State
D28-30	Fiesta Bowl Cl.
J2	at Oregon
J4	at Oregon State
J9	Washington State
J11	Washington
J16	at USC
J18	at UCLA
J22	Arizona State
J25	at Kansas
J30	California
F1	Stanford
F6	at Washington
F8	at Washington State
F13	UCLA
F15	USC
F22	at Arizona State
F27	at Stanford
M1	at California
M6	Oregon State
M8	Oregon

WHAT SCARES US: Heavy expectations do not always wear lightly on the Wildcats. The 1998 team was supposed to win the NCAA title—it didn't. The 2000 team bragged of being one of the best teams of all time—it wasn't. The 2003 Wildcats must answer questions about their defense, which was uncharacteristically mediocre last season. They had problems against physical big men and sometimes struggled against athletic wings. Iguodala is expected to help on the wing, and Stoudamire has shown promise as an on-ball defender. Frye has an intensely competitive spirit. Freshman forward Chris Dunn has loads of athleticism, but he probably will redshirt. There are questions about whether Bynum can handle the point, after an experiment to place him there during a spring tour of Australia yielded mixed results. If Bynum can't, he will be best at off-guard in matchups where Arizona can use his extraordinary quickness and leaping ability. But he hasn't shown he can be happy in a limited role. Though Gardner is a terrific guard, he still needs to improve his ability to distribute the ball.

X FACTOR: Last season, Anderson's play often was the difference between winning and losing. When his shooting and driving ability created problems for opponents, Arizona did well. When his attention wandered and/or he ran into foul trouble, the team often struggled. This season, Anderson's play could determine the team's chances for the national title. Arizona still needs his play around the basket, shooting from midrange and rebounding. But Anderson must be willing to accept a lesser role. Adams and Iguodala are good enough that the Wildcats might move either of them to small forward and put Walton in the post with Frye. If Anderson can adjust, Arizona will be richer for it. Anderson often is best in short spurts.

A PAC-10 COACH SAYS...

They've got the smartest player in the college game in Luke Walton. Jason Gardner is more of a scoring point guard, but he'll set the tone when he jumps up and makes a big shot. We hurt them when we broke them down off the dribble; they'll be in a better position to handle that with the younger guys, Hassan Adams and Andre Iguodala. Is Will Bynum going to accept his role? How about Salim Stoudamire if his minutes are cut?

Wildcats Data

Coach: Lute Olson (471-143, 19 years; 663-235 overall, 29 years; 39-23 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1997).
Assistant coaches: Jim Rosborough (13 years), Rodney Tention (5), Josh Pastner (1st).
2001-2002 record: 24-10. Pac-10: 12-6/T2nd. Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA West semifinal.
Last league title: 2000 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1984.
Site: Tucson, Ariz.
Website: www.arizcats.com
Home court: McKale Center (14,545).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Hassan Adams	6-4/205	Fr.	California's Mr. Basketball.					
33	**F**	**Rick Anderson***	**6-9/213**	**Sr.**	**12.4**	**7.2**	**1.5**	**49.2**	**70.8**	**42.2**
3	G	Will Bynum	5-10/183	So.	6.4	1.5	1.4	34.4	65.0	25.5
	F	Chris Dunn	6-7/180	Fr.	New Mexico's Player of the Year.					
52	C	Isaiah Fox	6-9/265	So.	4.4	4.0	0.2	48.1	57.1	0.0
45	**C**	**Channing Frye***	**6-10/222**	**So.**	**9.5**	**6.3**	**0.7**	**59.5**	**72.7**	**—**
22	**G**	**Jason Gardner***	**5-10/181**	**Sr.**	**20.4**	**2.9**	**4.6**	**42.5**	**80.0**	**38.4**
	F	Andre Iguodala	6-6/205	Fr.	Second-team *Parade* All-American.					
34	F	Dennis Latimore	6-8/254	So.	1.9	2.5	0.2	42.6	39.3	—
11	G	Jason Ranne	6-4/204	Jr.	0.8	0.3	0.3	66.7	0.0	100.0
	G	Chris Rodgers	6-4/190	Fr.	Eligibility was in question in August.					
20	**G**	**Salim Stoudamire***	**6-1/176**	**So.**	**12.8**	**2.1**	**1.1**	**44.3**	**90.4**	**45.3**
12	G	Fil Torres	6-2/185	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
4	**F**	**Luke Walton***	**6-8/241**	**Sr.**	**15.7**	**7.3**	**6.3**	**47.0**	**68.2**	**28.3**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Mike Schwertley	6-5/229	1.1	0.9	0.6	50.0	66.7	0.0

National Rank 12

2. Oregon

WHAT WE LIKE: The Ducks lost an NBA first-rounder (Frederick Jones) and a game-changing 7-footer (Chris Christoffersen) yet actually might be better. Credit the Lukes—point guard Ridnour and wing Jackson—and a promising core of newcomers. Ridnour established himself as one of the country's top point guards last season, jump-starting the Ducks' frenetic offense with court awareness, scoring ability and quickness. He also has developed into a leader. The confident, energetic Jackson can play almost anywhere on the floor. At 6-7, he could be a monster at shooting guard, which he might play if Australian native Ian Crosswhite, a redshirt freshman, plays at small forward. The Ducks also can go with a smaller backcourt lineup. Andre Joseph was a prolific JC scorer, and returnee James Davis, who makes 40 percent of his 3s, is another shooter. Freshman Brandon Lincoln is good enough to help at either guard spot. Power forward Robert Johnson, a strong defender and rebounder, is one of the Pac-10's most underrated players. Johnson will be asked to score more this season, and center Brian Helquist already has lost 15 pounds in an effort to stay in better shape and avoid injuries. Freshman Jordan Kent, coach Ernie Kent's son, is a track star who eventually should shine on the basketball court.

Schedule

N24-25 Thompson Chall.
N30 Pacific
D4 Portland
D7 Kansas
D14 at Pepperdine
D17 Cincinnati*
D20 Florida A&M
D22 Minnesota
D28 UC Riverside
J2 Arizona
J4 Arizona State
J9 at California
J11 at Stanford
J15 at Portland State
J18 Oregon State
J23 Washington
J25 Washington State
J30 at UCLA
F2 at USC
F6 Stanford
F8 California
F15 at Oregon State
F20 at Washington State
F22 at Washington
F27 USC
M1 UCLA
M6 at Arizona State
M8 at Arizona
*at East Rutherford, N.J.

WHAT SCARES US: Good thing the Ducks outran just about everybody last season. They struggled defensively at times, allowing Pac-10 opponents an average of 77.9 points a game and a field-goal percentage of 45.4. Kent hired Fred Litzenberger, a former assistant on the school's women's team, to improve the defensive schemes and tenacity, and Oregon made strides last season. Part of the Ducks' defensive problem is size: Aside from Johnson and Helquist, there isn't much bulk on the roster. Crosswhite has size and scoring ability but is more of a perimeter player. Junior Jay Anderson has yet to make much impact, and 7-footer Matt Short appears to be a long-term project. Another freshman, Adam Zahn, might need to help immediately. The Ducks probably will look for Helquist to fill the center spot, but he often was tired and hurt last season. Replacing Jones' experience and knack for hitting the key shot—he finally excelled in late-game situations as a senior—will be a challenge no matter how many scorers emerge. Jackson undoubtedly will be a key contributor from the wing, but the Ducks need another top go-to player to emerge, whether it be Crosswhite, Joseph or Davis. Oregon might have to wait for help from Jordan Kent, who might redshirt and concentrate on track. He already is a Pac-10-caliber sprinter and long jumper.

X FACTOR: Don't look for the 6-11, 245-pound Crosswhite to anchor himself under the basket. He's a small forward in a big man's body. The Ducks will be dangerous if he can shine from the perimeter. The lefthander has excellent shooting ability, good hands and solid inside moves. With Crosswhite at small forward and Jackson at shooting guard, Oregon can get huge without sacrificing too much speed. They could have Ridnour, plus 6-7, 6-8, 6-9 and 6-11 men in the lineup. Frightening.

A Pac-10 Coach Says...

Luke Ridnour is one of the best lead guards in the country. Luke Jackson is a tough matchup. If you put a smaller guy on him, he'll go down and post him. A bigger guy, and he'll go by him. Freddie Jones—it's tough to replace a guy like that. He was consistent and tough. They might try to get more out of the inside game, but Coach Kent always has relied on the perimeter. We don't mind playing them, put it like that.

Luke Jackson

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Ducks Data

Coach: Ernie Kent (94-58, 5 years; 184-138 overall, 11 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Scott Duncan (2 years), Fred Litzenberger (1), John Cooper (1st year).
2001-2002 record: 26-9. Pac-10: 14-4/1st. Lost to Kansas in NCAA Midwest final.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 104.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Eugene, Ore.
Website: www.goducks.com
Home court: McArthur Court (9,087).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
55	C	Jay Anderson	6-9/230	Jr.	1.7	1.2	0.2	46.2	62.5	50.0
11	**F**	**Ian Crosswhite**	**6-11/245**	**Fr.**	**Member of Australian junior nat'l team.**					
1	G	James Davis	5-10/175	Jr.	6.0	1.2	1.3	46.0	80.6	40.4
40	**C**	**Brian Helquist**	**6-9/270**	**Sr.**	**3.5**	**2.6**	**0.1**	**53.7**	**64.0**	**—**
33	**G/F**	**Luke Jackson***	**6-7/210**	**Jr.**	**16.7**	**5.4**	**3.3**	**45.8**	**86.4**	**40.0**
3	**F**	**Robert Johnson***	**6-8/245**	**Sr.**	**7.5**	**7.5**	**1.2**	**53.9**	**56.4**	**0.0**
35	G	Andre Joseph	6-3/195	Jr.	Could start at SG, moving Jackson to SF.					
2	G	Jordan Kent	6-4/200	Fr.	Ernie's son; Oregon hoops/track champ.					
14	G	Brandon Lincoln	6-4/195	Fr.	Likely heir apparent to Frederick Jones.					
13	**G**	**Luke Ridnour***	**6-2/175**	**Jr.**	**15.5**	**2.9**	**5.0**	**46.8**	**86.7**	**44.1**
5	C	Matt Short	7-0/235	Fr.	Redshirt. Played in 2001 Global Games.					
42	F	Adam Zahn	6-8/225	Fr.	Big guy who can run and shoot outside.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Chris Christoffersen*	7-2/300	8.2	5.4	0.3	54.7	55.0	—
G	Frederick Jones*	6-4/210	18.6	5.4	3.2	52.1	87.1	37.2
G	Anthony Lever	6-3/185	6.3	1.5	0.9	44.1	80.0	50.0
G	Ben Lindquist	6-4/195	2.5	1.2	1.5	29.4	76.9	31.3
F	Mark Michaelis	6-10/230	2.0	1.5	0.2	46.5	71.4	45.5

National Rank 16

3. UCLA

WHAT WE LIKE: Jason Kapono is the perfect type of player for today's college game: a great shooter, smart player, leader—and not quite athletic enough to leave early for the NBA. He returns for a fourth season and will be counted on more than ever because there will be three new starters. The only question is where he will play, but Kapono at least should be relieved of point guard duties if sophomore Cedric Bozeman continues to show progress. Kapono, as good as he is, might be the least athletic player on the floor at times. The Bruins could use a small, quick lineup with Bozeman, Kapono, wings Dijon Thompson and Ray Young and forward T.J. Cummings, with freshman wing Evan Burns likely playing heavy minutes if he achieved eligibility. As usual, the Bruins are loaded with talented wing players. Thompson showed the potential for a breakout season late last year but shot poorly from 3-point range and needs to add strength. Andre Patterson didn't play often as a freshman but was a promising recruit. Young's defense will get him on the floor even if he didn't improve his shooting while redshirting last season. Penn State transfer Jon Crispin is a gritty defender who can score. After football season, the Bruins will welcome Marcedes Lewis, a big, athletic and skilled power forward.

Schedule

N26	San Diego
N30	Duke*
D8	Long Beach State
D14	Portland
D17	Northern Arizona
D21	at Kansas
D28	Michigan
J2	at Washington
J4	at Washington State
J8	USC
J11	St. John's
J16	Arizona State
J18	Arizona
J23	at Stanford
J25	at California
J30	Oregon
F1	Oregon State
F5	at USC
F8	at Georgetown
F13	at Arizona
F15	at Arizona State
F20	California
F22	Stanford
F27	at Oregon State
M1	at Oregon
M6	Washington State
M8	Washington

*at Indianapolis

WHAT SCARES US: The Bruins have two huge questions: Can Bozeman develop into a top point guard, and can someone fill departed Dan Gadzuric's spot in the middle? Coach Steve Lavin blames the Bruins' inconsistency last season on having to throw Bozeman into the fire with no other point guards, although Lavin also used Kapono and Ryan Walcott there. Not only was Bozeman a true freshman, he sustained a knee injury early in the season that hampered his quickness and ultimately kept him out for a month. When he returned, he lost the swagger that Lavin said he saw in preseason practices. Questions about Bozeman's ability to break down defenses and distribute the ball remain largely unanswered. But the presence of the quick Walcott, a cousin of Sacramento Kings point guard Mike Bibby, will help. Walcott and Bozeman may play together at times. In the frontcourt, freshman Michael Fey will have an opportunity to claim the center spot, but he was forced to sit out last season because of academics and may be rusty. Cummings can play center but gives up strength there. Patterson and Matt McKinney, a blue-chip volleyball recruit, might be needed to help at forward. Whatever the lineup, it is clear Lavin won't be able to run the offense through the center spot as much.

X FACTOR: Counting Burns, Lavin has 15 Division I-quality players, two more than the scholarship limit, thanks to help from the football team (Lewis) and volleyball team (McKinney). Lavin may have trouble giving everyone enough playing time—in practice, much less games. Last season, several freshmen grumbled about their limited roles, and it is unclear whether Bozeman is an effective enough leader to quiet any unrest. Though Kapono has leadership ability, he might be focused on improving his NBA skills. This team could be as explosive off the court as it is on it.

A PAC-10 COACH SAYS...

They've got a lot of talent. Jason Kapono is a great shooter, but it will be interesting to see how much he improved his game off the dribble. Cedric Bozeman is a tough matchup, but can he run a team? Their wings are as good as anybody's. They're going to be versatile, and Coach Lavin will be able to play the way he did two years ago, pressing a lot. You never know about their chemistry, if they're going to come to play every night.

Jason Kapono

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Bruins Data

Coach: Steve Lavin (135-59, 6 years; 11-6 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Jim Saia (6 years), Gerald Madkins (1), Patrick Sandle (1).
2001-2002 record: 21-12. Pac-10: 11-7/6th. Lost to Missouri in NCAA West semifinal.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 6.
Last league title: 1997.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1988.
Site: Los Angeles.
Website: www.uclabruins.com
Home court: Pauley Pavilion (12,800).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
21	**G**	**Cedric Bozeman***	**6-6/193**	**So.**	**4.0**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**41.3**	**28.6**	**28.0**
3	F	Evan Burns	6-8/220	Fr.	7th McDonald's All-Amer. to sign with Lavin.					
5	G	Jon Crispin	6-2/195	Jr.	Shooter helped Penn State to '01 Sweet 16.					
43	**F**	**T.J. Cummings**	**6-10/223**	**Jr.**	**7.6**	**3.1**	**0.5**	**51.0**	**74.5**	**25.0**
45	C	Michael Fey	6-11/245	Fr.	Was a top 50 H.S. prospect in 2001.					
52	C	John Hoffart	6-10/279	Jr.	0.4	0.0	0.1	100.0	100.0	—
54	F	Josiah Johnson	6-8/240	So.	0.8	0.3	0.1	20.0	100.0	0.0
24	**F**	**Jason Kapono***	**6-8/213**	**Sr.**	**16.0**	**5.1**	**2.1**	**45.9**	**85.6**	**45.3**
4	F	Marcedes Lewis	6-6/240	Fr.	Considered nation's top tight end prospect.					
25	F	Matt McKinney	6-8/200	Fr.	Potential to make Olympic volleyball team.					
23	F	Andre Patterson	6-7/197	So.	2.3	2.1	0.3	50.0	64.7	0.0
2	G	Janou Rubin	6-3/188	So.	Lettered in '00-01. Redshirted last year.					
1	**G/F**	**Dijon Thompson**	**6-7/192**	**So.**	**4.5**	**2.2**	**1.1**	**42.9**	**87.0**	**27.1**
10	G	Ryan Walcott	6-1/177	So.	2.5	0.5	1.2	41.8	70.0	34.6
34	**G**	**Ray Young**	**6-4/210**	**Sr.**	**Had 22 career starts before redshirting.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Matt Barnes*	6-7/230	13.5	6.2	3.5	47.1	61.9	41.7
C	Dan Gadzuric*	6-11/248	11.7	7.7	0.7	55.4	47.2	0.0
G/F	Rico Hines	6-4/217	1.1	2.1	1.5	27.9	54.5	0.8
G	Billy Knight*	6-5/210	14.1	3.5	1.4	45.8	82.6	39.7

4. USC

National Rank 38

WHAT WE LIKE: The Trojans lost three cornerstone players (Brandon Granville, David Bluthenthal and Sam Clancy), but they won't be any more fun for opponents to play. Everyone on the floor will be able to run, and the Trojans have the ability to create much of their offense. Errick Craven and Desmon Farmer will provide much of the point production from the wings. Craven can score off his defense, and his shooting is improving, too. Junior Roy Smiley is a steady shooter. Sophomore big men Nick Curtis and Rory O'Neil run the floor well. Jerry Dupree plays much bigger than his 6-7, 200-pound frame. JC transfer Brandon Brooks, the 2000 Oregon Player of the Year, should step right into Granville's spot, with senior Robert Hutchinson behind him.

WHAT SCARES US: Clancy's frequent double-doubles were easy to take for granted, and the Trojans don't have a single player capable of replacing most of his inside production. Kostas Charissis provides size and quickness in the post but he's not a big scorer. The bulk of the points will come from the perimeter and off of defense. Brooks was a promising high school star and junior college player but could be rusty after sitting out last season. This is a team that will rely heavily on JC transfers and sophomores to provide scoring and leadership. None of them has assumed such a role at this level.

X FACTOR: Dupree, a springy shot blocker, can help compensate for Clancy's absence if he can add a midrange shot and better ballhandling to his defense. Dupree came on strong late last season, after playing a lot early in the year and then disappearing for much of the regular season. He can defend any perimeter player in the league because of his quickness and any big man because of his wingspan. He should be a full-time factor this season.

Trojans Data

Coach: Henry Bibby (103-77, 6 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Kurtis Townsend (1 year), Damon Archibald (2), Eric Brown (1).
2001-2002 record: 22-10. Pac-10: 12-6/T2nd. Lost to UNC Wilmington in NCAA South first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 13.
Last league title: 1985 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Los Angeles.
Website: www.usctrojans.com
Home court: Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena (16,161).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
0	**G**	**Brandon Brooks**	**6-1/170**	**So.**	**PG likes to run, can defend and distribute.**					
15	**C**	**Kostas Charissis***	**6-11/260**	**Sr.**	**2.3**	**2.9**	**0.5**	**50.0**	**71.4**	**—**
24	G	Derrick Craven	6-2/190	So.	0.3	0.6	1.0	7.7	66.7	—
22	**G**	**Errick Craven***	**6-2/190**	**So.**	**11.8**	**4.4**	**1.8**	**45.0**	**64.7**	**32.4**
2	F	Nick Curtis	6-8/220	So.	1.0	0.8	0.2	39.1	60.0	0.0
31	**F**	**Jerry Dupree**	**6-7/200**	**Jr.**	**3.7**	**1.8**	**0.7**	**47.1**	**42.9**	**0.0**
33	**G**	**Desmon Farmer**	**6-4/225**	**Jr.**	**9.5**	**3.3**	**1.8**	**46.8**	**71.6**	**38.6**
13	F	Gregg Guenther	6-8/250	So.	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.0	33.3	—
4	G	Robert Hutchinson	6-1/185	Sr.	2.0	0.8	1.6	37.7	76.5	24.0
10	C	Jonathan Oliver	7-0/230	Jr.	Can help replace Sam Clancy's defense.					
21	C	Rory O'Neil	6-11/240	So.	4.3	2.3	0.4	48.5	76.5	0.0
1	G	Roy Smiley	6-4/195	Jr.	Wing player who also can run the offense.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Sam Clancy*	6-7/240	19.1	9.4	1.7	49.4	62.4	50.0
F	David Bluthenthal*	6-7/220	12.3	7.4	1.3	41.8	83.1	40.5
G	Brandon Granville*	5-9/175	12.5	2.3	5.8	36.8	80.5	32.9

Schedule

N22	UC Riverside	J2	at Washington State	J25	at Stanford	F20	Stanford
N26	at Rhode Island	J4	at Washington	J30	Oregon State	F22	California
N30	Morris Brown	J9	at UCLA	F1	Oregon	F27	at Oregon
D3	at UC Santa Barbara	J11	Pennsylvania	F5	UCLA	M1	at Oregon State
D7	Missouri*	J16	Arizona	F9	at UNLV	M6	Washington
D21	La Salle	J18	Arizona State	F13	at Arizona State	M8	Washington State
		J23	at California	F15	at Arizona		*at Anaheim, Calif.

5. California

National Rank 49

WHAT WE LIKE: The Bears are loaded with solid, experienced perimeter players. Joe Shipp is one of the league's better shooters, and Brian Wethers is an explosive athlete. Amit Tamir, who once played for the Israeli national team, is seasoned beyond his sophomore status and displayed strong midrange shooting last season. The Bears have serviceable point guards even after losing Shantay Legans to transfer in August. A.J. Diggs, who started six games last season, is heady and defensive-minded, and freshman Richard Midgley will complement him with some offense. There also is experienced reserve combo guard Donte Smith.

WHAT SCARES US: Who's going to rebound? Gabriel Hughes nearly transferred before opting to return, but he's slender and inexperienced. His brother, Solomon Hughes, is gone, and Jamal Sampson bolted for the NBA. The Bears need freshmen Rod Benson and David Paris to provide rebounding and defense immediately. It's a lot to ask. At least they have potential and Paris, the son of former San Francisco 49ers lineman Bubba Paris, has girth. But the incoming freshman class would have been much better had forward Kennedy Winston not opted out of his letter-of-intent and headed to Alabama. Wing Erik Bond, a former Washington prep player of the year, should provide shooting and rebounding help, but he's coming off ankle surgery.

X FACTOR: Coach Ben Braun might have toughened up the schedule a year too late. Last season's soft non-conference slate has been replaced by a more challenging schedule that includes December matchups with Kansas (TSN's preseason No. 1 pick) and Georgia. The Bears will be tougher later in the season if they can make it through the early schedule, but their younger guys face a difficult initiation.

Bears Data

Coach: Ben Braun (118-70, 6 years; 451-305 overall, 25 years; 6-6 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Louis Reynaud (4 years), Jon Wheeler (2), Joe Pasternack (1).
2001-2002 record: 23-9. Pac-10: 12-6/T2nd. Lost to Pittsburgh in NCAA South second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 44.
Last league title: 1960.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Berkeley, Calif.
Website: www.calbears.com
Home court: Haas Pavilion (12,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F/C	Rod Benson	6-10/200	Fr.	One of the top H.S. centers on West Coast.					
30	G/F	Erik Bond	6-7/195	Fr.	Redshirted last year after ankle surgery.					
2	**G**	**A.J. Diggs**	**5-10/160**	**Jr.**	**3.2**	**1.8**	**1.6**	**43.4**	**61.5**	**36.4**
40	F	Conor Famulener	6-6/225	Jr.	1.1	0.9	0.3	37.5	41.4	10.0
23	G	T. Forehan-Kelly	6-3/170	So.	0.3	0.4	1.2	25.0	—	0.0
33	F/C	Gabriel Hughes	6-10/215	Jr.	2.1	1.5	0.1	70.4	31.6	—
15	G	Richard Midgley	6-2/190	Fr.	PG was TSN's No. 93 national H.S. player.					
55	**F**	**David Paris**	**6-8/265**	**Fr.**	**Midgley's H.S. teammate; vital to frontcourt.**					
34	**F**	**Joe Shipp***	**6-5/220**	**Sr.**	**14.8**	**4.7**	**1.7**	**48.6**	**78.1**	**35.2**
3	G	Donte Smith	6-2/190	Sr.	1.1	0.6	0.0	16.0	100.0	16.7
24	**F/C**	**Amit Tamir**	**6-10/250**	**So.**	**9.9**	**3.5**	**1.8**	**40.0**	**82.9**	**32.5**
22	G	Ronnie West	6-3/190	Jr.	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	—	—
25	**G/F**	**Brian Wethers***	**6-5/210**	**Sr.**	**10.3**	**4.2**	**1.4**	**47.7**	**71.3**	**19.1**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Solomon Hughes*	6-11/225	7.7	3.9	0.6	59.4	37.1	—
G	Shantay Legans*	5-10/175	Transferred to Fresno State.					
F	Jamal Sampson*	6-11/235	6.4	6.5	1.2	42.6	52.6	—
G/F	Ryan Forehan-Kelly	6-5/195	7.7	2.5	1.2	46.3	77.2	38.2
G	Dennis Gates	6-3/195	5.6	2.0	2.5	39.5	74.1	25.8

Schedule

N23	at New Mexico	D30	USF	J25	UCLA	J20	at UCLA
N30	at Cleveland State	J4	Stanford	J30	at Arizona	J22	at USC
D3	Howard	J9	Oregon	F1	at Arizona State	F27	Arizona State
D7	Georgia*	J11	Oregon State	F6	at Oregon State	M1	Arizona
D20-21	Golden Bear Cl.	J16	at Washington	F8	at Oregon	M8	at Stanford
D28	Kansas**	J18	at Washington State	F13	Washington State		*at Anaheim, Calif.
		J23	USC	F15	Washington		**at Oakland

6. Arizona State

National Rank 66

WHAT WE LIKE: The Sun Devils no longer must rely on long-term projects such as center Chad Prewitt, a sleeper recruit who slowly developed into an all-Pac-10 player by his senior year. They have players such as Ike Diogu, a strong, steady-shooting big man who has good hands, and Jamal Hill, a slasher/scorer who attracted Kansas' attention last season. ASU also has a promising, athletic backcourt in point guard Jason Braxton and shooting guard Curtis Millage. Both improved last season, with Braxton gaining confidence in his shot and Millage adding shooting to his ability to get into the lane. Power forward Tommy Smith has one more year to become the dominant force he was expected to be.

WHAT SCARES US: ASU lost its top scorer for a third straight year and hasn't had a big-time scorer since Eddie House's final season in 2000. There is no telling who, if anyone, might fill the go-to role. It could be Smith, who played smarter last season but still must finish better and gain more weight. It could be Millage, Diogu or Hill. The Sun Devils aren't particularly big inside, where Diogu might be the only offensive force. Chris Osborne is a banger who will play without a wrist cast that limited him last season, but most of the other inside players are slender. The team must rely on aggressive defense and rebounding.

X FACTOR: The Sun Devils must shoot better from the free-throw line. In Pac-10 play last season, they shot a miserable 63 percent, and it cost them in several games. They were 18-of-34 in an 8-point loss to USC, 15-of-31 in an 8-point loss to Arizona and 20-of-36 in a 5-point loss to Stanford. Coach Rob Evans tried nearly every trick, even holding three free-throw-only sessions in one day before the Pac-10 tournament. The result: ASU was 2-of-12 from the line in a first-round loss to Arizona.

Sun Devils Data

Coach: Rob Evans (60-60, 4 years; 146-141 overall, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Dan O'Dowd (4 years), Tony Benford (4), Russ Pennell (4), Jeff Platt (2).
2001-2002 record: 14-15. Pac-10: 7-11/7th. Lost to UNLV in NIT first rd.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 61.
Last league title: 1975 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Tempe, Ariz.
Website: www.thesundevils.com
Home court: Wells Fargo Arena (14,088).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
24	G/F	Justin Allen	6-7/225	Jr.	1.8	0.9	0.4	37.8	42.9	37.9
50	F	Serge Angounou	6-7/226	Fr.	Agile Cameroon native should add offense.					
1	**G**	**Jason Braxton***	**6-2/180**	**So.**	**6.1**	**2.4**	**2.3**	**38.5**	**43.2**	**17.4**
12	G	Kenny Crandall	6-3/195	Jr.	6.3	2.0	1.5	44.0	75.0	42.2
5	**F/C**	**Ike Diogu**	**6-8/242**	**Fr.**	**Top 50 recruit is a force inside.**					
3	G	Kyle Dodd	6-0/175	Sr.	3.2	1.7	2.3	34.4	67.5	13.8
32	G	Brandon Goldman	5-9/165	Sr.	0.8	0.5	0.3	20.0	50.0	0.0
22	**F**	**Jamal Hill**	**6-6/200**	**Jr.**	**H.S. teammate of NBA's Drew Gooden.**					
21	F	Donnell Knight	6-7/200	Sr.	3.9	2.7	0.8	43.0	71.9	40.0
14	**G**	**Curtis Millage***	**6-2/175**	**Sr.**	**13.5**	**4.1**	**2.5**	**46.6**	**74.6**	**31.7**
0	F	Allen Morill	6-6/226	Fr.	Defensive specialist averaged 14 ppg as Sr.					
33	F	Chris Osborne	6-9/240	Sr.	2.1	0.9	0.1	55.6	41.7	—
42	F	Shawn Redhage	6-7/225	Sr.	5.2	2.6	1.2	52.7	75.0	40.0
4	**F**	**Tommy Smith***	**6-10/215**	**Sr.**	**11.7**	**5.3**	**2.0**	**47.1**	**56.1**	**37.9**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Awvee Storey*	6-6/221	7.6	4.0	0.8	46.1	69.8	0.0
G	Brad Nahra	6-4/209	1.3	0.8	0.5	30.8	54.2	18.8
F/C	Chad Prewitt*	6-9/241	17.0	7.3	2.3	52.0	73.8	41.0

Schedule

N22 Morehead State
N25-27 Maui Invitational
N30 Lafayette
D4 Brigham Young
D7 at Utah
D10 Nevada
D21 Purdue*
D27-28 azcentral.com Cl.
J2 at Oregon State
J4 at Oregon
J9 Washington
J11 Washington State
J16 at UCLA
J18 at USC
J22 at Arizona
J30 California
F1 Stanford
F6 at Washington State
F8 at Washington
F13 USC
F15 UCLA
F22 Arizona
F27 at Stanford
M1 at California
M6 Oregon
M8 Oregon State
*at Las Vegas

7. Stanford

National Rank 70

WHAT WE LIKE: Mike Montgomery's track record is pretty good. That might be the most hopeful thing to say about the Cardinal now, after Curtis Borchardt and Casey Jacobsen left early for the NBA draft. Montgomery knows how to build a structured offense, how to play stifling position defense and how to field a good team without stars. What he has to work with this season is more athleticism than usual, a few potential go-to men and some smart, tough players. The most likely go-to man is wing Josh Childress, who showed improvement and more aggressiveness late last season. Julius Barnes, who will play shooting guard if tough-minded Chris Hernandez can handle the point, brings explosiveness but not consistency. Matt Lottich, Dan Grunfeld and Nick Robinson are good, but mostly unproven, shooters.

WHAT SCARES US: Stanford, unlike Duke or Arizona, isn't the kind of program that can shake off two early departures. The incoming recruits, though talented, will take awhile to develop. Stanford is particularly thin inside, counting on the athletic but offensively limited Justin Davis at power forward and blue-collar Joe Kirchofer or Rob Little, the team's only true big man, at center. Matt Haryasz is promising but probably not ready to contribute much. Though Barnes is a terrific slasher, he isn't a great spot-up shooter. Stanford's traditionally tough defense has declined slightly in recent seasons, a trend that might continue.

X FACTOR: Stanford could lose another player to the draft this season. The NFL draft. If power forward/wide receiver Teyo Johnson plays well on the football field, he could declare early for the NFL draft and take the spring off from basketball to prepare. If not, Johnson will be available in December (with some likely fatigue) or January, if the Cardinal reaches a bowl.

Cardinal Data

Coach: Mike Montgomery (339-156, 16 years; 493-232, 24 years; 14-10 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Tony Fuller (3 years), Eric Reveno (5), Russell Turner (1).
2001-2002 record: 20-10. Pac-10: 12-6/T2nd. Lost to Kansas in NCAA Midwest second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 15.
Last league title: 2001.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Palo Alto, Calif.
Website: www.gostanford.com
Home court: Maples Pavilion (7,391).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

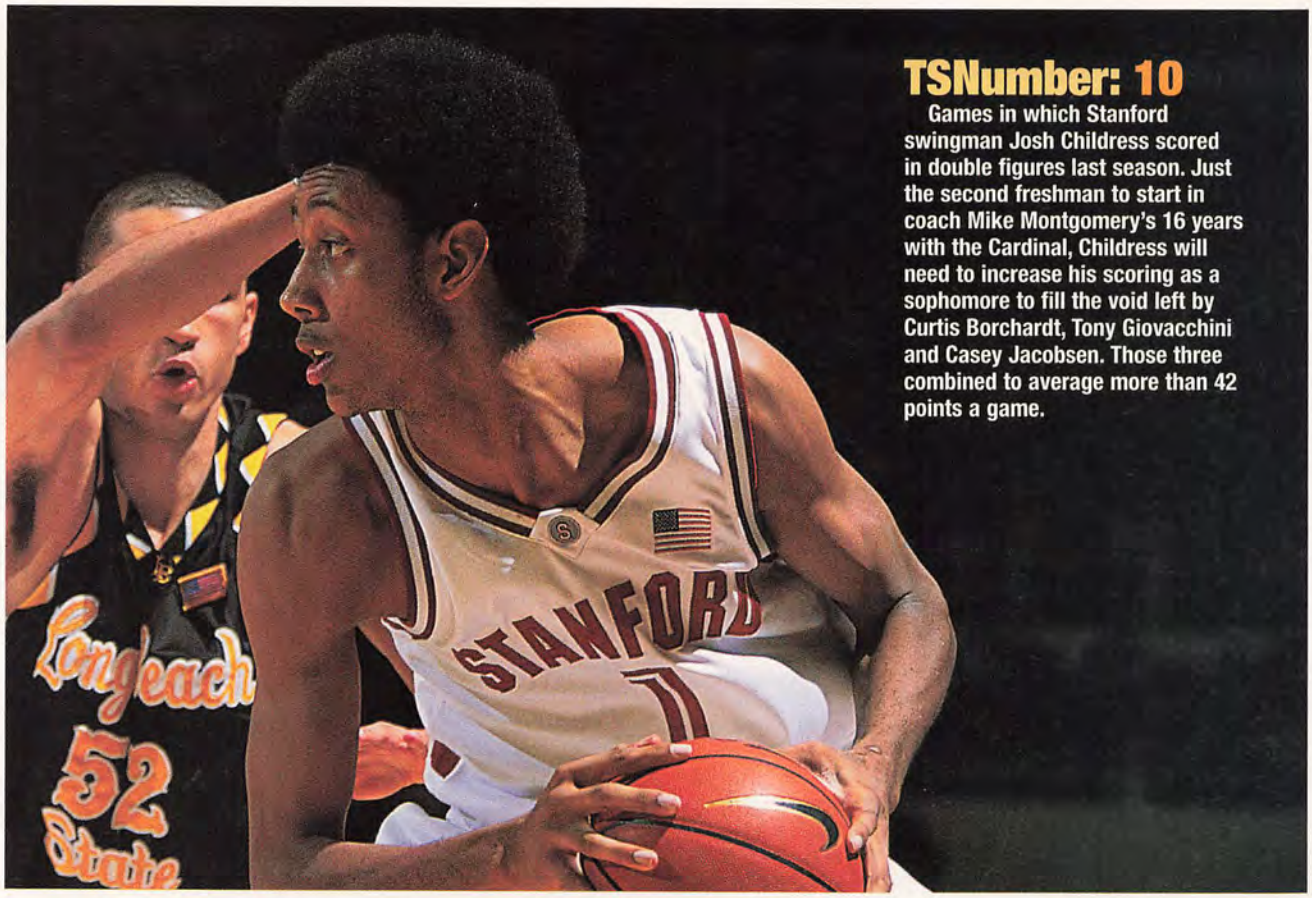
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
24	**G**	**Julius Barnes***	**6-1/180**	**Sr.**	**10.9**	**2.3**	**2.9**	**41.7**	**81.4**	**33.8**
14	G/F	Tyler Besecker	6-6/205	Jr.	0.8	0.8	0.8	16.7	50.0	33.3
1	**G/F**	**Josh Childress**	**6-8/190**	**So.**	**7.8**	**4.8**	**0.8**	**40.2**	**69.4**	**27.5**
22	**F**	**Justin Davis***	**6-8/230**	**Jr.**	**4.6**	**4.1**	**0.9**	**58.9**	**41.4**	**—**
20	F	Dan Grunfeld	6-6/220	Fr.	Son of Milw. Bucks G.M. Ernie has great range.					
32	G	Jason Haas	6-2/175	Fr.	Tough backup PG can shoot.					
52	F	Matt Haryasz	6-10/205	Fr.	Shot blocker might need to contribute quickly.					
11	**G**	**Chris Hernandez**	**6-2/185**	**So.**	**3.0**	**1.2**	**1.6**	**34.4**	**76.2**	**31.6**
5	F	Teyo Johnson	6-7/240	Jr.	5.8	4.0	0.9	43.1	59.6	36.1
00	F	Joe Kirchofer	6-9/245	Jr.	2.7	1.9	0.4	60.5	81.8	—
42	**C**	**Rob Little**	**6-10/265**	**So.**	**2.4**	**2.2**	**0.2**	**53.1**	**57.6**	**—**
22	G	Matt Lottich	6-4/190	Jr.	2.5	1.1	0.5	35.7	60.0	30.0
21	G/F	Nick Robinson	6-6/200	So.	1.7	1.4	0.4	35.3	76.9	40.0
3	G	Carlton Weatherby	5-11/165	Fr.	One of the top PGs in state of Washington.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Curtis Borchardt*	7-0/240	16.9	11.4	2.0	57.6	67.0	40.7
G	Tony Giovacchini*	6-2/180	3.8	2.5	2.4	30.3	75.0	34.8
G	Casey Jacobsen*	6/6-215	21.9	4.5	3.5	44.1	77.6	37.2

Schedule

N18-29 Preseason NIT
N24 Rice
D14 St. Mary's
D16-17 Stanford Invit.
D19 UC Irvine
D21 at UNLV
D28 Gonzaga*
D30 Yale
J4 at California
J9 Oregon State
J11 Oregon
J16 at Washington State
J18 at Washington
J23 UCLA
J25 USC
J30 at Arizona State
F1 at Arizona
F6 at Oregon
F8 at Oregon State
F13 Washington
F15 Washington State
F20 at USC
F22 at UCLA
F27 Arizona
M1 Arizona State
M8 California
*at Oakland



TSNumber: 10

Games in which Stanford swingman Josh Childress scored in double figures last season. Just the second freshman to start in coach Mike Montgomery's 16 years with the Cardinal, Childress will need to increase his scoring as a sophomore to fill the void left by Curtis Borchardt, Tony Giovacchini and Casey Jacobsen. Those three combined to average more than 42 points a game.

8. Washington

National Rank 92

WHAT WE LIKE: This is the most athletic team Lorenzo Romar has had in six-plus years as a head coach. Provided Romar loosens the structured system he ran at Saint Louis, the Huskies could be scary in his first season of coaching his alma mater. Forward Doug Wrenn is an explosive scorer who has plenty of room for improvement, especially in areas of defense and rebounding. Freshman Brandon Roy, who briefly entered the NBA draft before reconsidering, is another athlete who will find time on the wing, and late recruit Bobby Jones will add defense immediately. Curtis Allen is the quickest point guard in the Pac-10. The Huskies also should have a true power forward for a change in the strong, athletic Mike Jensen.

WHAT SCARES US: The talent doesn't come with much experience or maturity. Wrenn is a 22-year-old junior, but most of the other Huskies have a year or less of Division I experience. Allen is a junior, but he still made plenty of poor decisions and lost his starting job to Will Conroy late last season. The Huskies still have questions at center; Marlon Shelton was off the court for a year and a half because of knee problems, though Anthony Washington can run the floor well and could be a surprise offensively. Football will limit the availability of point guards Nate Robinson and Charles Frederick.

X FACTOR: Personality conflicts and disciplinary problems hurt the Huskies last season, and coach Bob Bender's thin-ice status did not buy him the authority to change things. Romar can. Already, Romar has asked the players to hang out more together and dress more alike, and he banned what he called individualistic fashion statements such as the braids Wrenn wore last season. Wrenn quickly got a haircut. If the rest of the Huskies respond as well, they could challenge for the Pac-10's upper division.

Huskies Data

Coach: Lorenzo Romar (1st year; 93-88 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Ken Bone (1st year), Cameron Dollar (1st), Russ Schoene (1st).
2001-2002 record: 11-18. Pac-Ten: 5-13/8th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 118.
Last league title: 1985 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Seattle.
Website: www.gohuskies.com
Home court: Bank of America Arena (10,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
20	**G**	**Curtis Allen***	**6-0/170**	**Jr.**	**12.0**	**2.2**	**4.3**	**44.6**	**88.6**	**41.7**
23	G	Josh Barnard	6-5/205	Sr.	5.0	1.8	1.3	37.0	70.8	28.4
5	G	Will Conroy	6-1/185	So.	2.5	1.6	1.6	34.3	63.6	33.3
4	F	Jeffrey Day	6-9/220	So.	2.8	2.8	0.5	45.1	52.0	0.0
55	C	Ben DeVoe	6-10/265	Fr.	Averaged 14 ppg and 8 rpg as a senior.					
10	G	Charles Frederick	5-11/180	So.	0.8	0.3	0.3	40.0	50.0	0.0
52	G	David Hudson	5-11/185	So.	1.9	0.0	0.1	25.0	100.0	33.3
42	**F**	**Mike Jensen**	**6-9/220**	**Fr.**	**Redshirted after 6 games (shoulder).**					
	F	Bobby Jones	6-7/195	Fr.	Named to 10-man California all-state team.					
1	G	C.J. Massingale	6-4/200	Jr.	5.7	3.3	0.9	34.3	81.8	16.7
	G	Nate Robinson	5-9/170	Fr.	Wash. 3A Player of Year also plays football.					
	G/F	**Brandon Roy**	**6-5/195**	**Fr.**	**Withdrew name from NBA draft.**					
44	**C**	**Marlon Shelton**	**6-10/275**	**Sr.**	**Redshirted last year (left knee).**					
	C	Anthony Washington	6-9/220	Fr.	Top 100 recruit was H.S. teammate of Roy.					
24	**F**	**Doug Wrenn***	**6-8/220**	**Jr.**	**19.5**	**6.4**	**2.0**	**43.8**	**58.5**	**27.3**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	David Dixon*	6-11/280	8.4	7.6	1.2	53.9	57.8	—
F	Grant Leep*	6-7/225	7.8	4.1	0.5	51.0	76.5	52.7
G	Erroll Knight*	6-6/200	7.1	2.6	0.8	44.5	49.2	42.9

Schedule

N24	Montana State	D21	Florida International	J16	California	F13	at Stanford
N30	at UNLV	D23	Houston	J18	Stanford	F15	at California
D2	at Gonzaga	D28	Cal State Northridge	J23	at Oregon	F20	Oregon State
D5	Wyoming	J2	UCLA	J25	at Oregon State	F22	Oregon
D7	at Santa Clara	J4	USC	F1	Washington State	M1	at Washington State
D14	Eastern Washington	J9	at Arizona State	F6	Arizona	M6	at USC
		J11	at Arizona	F8	Arizona State	M8	at UCLA

9. Oregon State

National Rank 99

WHAT WE LIKE: First-year coach Jay John immediately made two important recruiting moves: He beat out Arkansas for freshman point guard Lamar Hurd and reinstated guard Jimmie Haywood, who quit the team under former coach Ritchie McKay. Hurd is a steady, true point guard who doesn't shoot well yet but doesn't need to. He is mostly expected to feed senior big men Philip Ricci and Brian Jackson. Hurd also will allow Haywood to play more often at shooting guard. Haywood, who appeared to have more differences with McKay than with teammates last season, will play as many minutes between the two guard spots as he can handle. Ricci is one of the Pac-10's best big men and Jackson, when he's healthy, is a skilled inside-outside threat.

WHAT SCARES US: The Beavers are barely deep enough even if Jackson and Ricci stay healthy, which hardly is a sure thing. Ricci redshirted in 2000-01 because of knee trouble, and Jackson, who also briefly quit the team last season, has trouble avoiding minor injuries. The rest of the post players are unproven, though Derek Potter has shown the ability to defend and rebound well. The Beavers also could use better shooting from the wing and lost a potential backup guard when Joe See quit, unhappy he wouldn't be the point guard full time. Small forward will be a weak spot until Floyd North III and freshman Justin Holt improve.

X FACTOR: John developed a reputation as a top recruiter and communicator under Lute Olson at Arizona, and now he has to recruit the OSU fans back into Gill Coliseum. The fans may want an uptempo team, but that style won't be the best way for OSU to win. The Beavers need to get the ball inside to Ricci and Jackson. A better-than-.500 season and NIT berth, which are possible if the seniors stay healthy, would help John walk this tightrope.

Beavers Data

Coach: Jay John (1st year).
Assistant coaches: Jeff Reinert (1st year), Brian Loyd (1st), Kevin Mouton (1st).
2001-2002 record: 12-17. Pac-10: 4-14/9th.

2001-2002 preseason rank: 81.
Last league title: 1990 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Corvallis, Ore.
Website: www.osubeavers.com
Home court: Gill Coliseum (10,400).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Mike Cokley	5-8/170	Sr.	0.8	0.2	0.1	50.0	100.0	42.9
44	C	Kevin Field	6-10/250	Fr.	Washington 4A All-State selection.					
34	**G**	**Jimmie Haywood***	**6-2/175**	**Sr.**	**9.0**	**2.9**	**1.6**	**41.4**	**57.1**	**40.0**
23	G	Justin Holt	6-6/200	Fr.	Consensus Washington 4A Player of Year.					
1	**G**	**Lamar Hurd**	**6-4/175**	**Fr.**	**Had 6-to-1 assist-to-TO ratio as H.S. Sr.**					
3	**F**	**Brian Jackson***	**6-9/240**	**Sr.**	**11.5**	**3.8**	**1.3**	**53.9**	**80.8**	**39.5**
30	F	David Lucas	6-6/205	So.	0.3	0.3	0.0	50.0	50.0	—
22	G	J.S. Nash*	6-1/195	So.	5.7	2.1	1.7	40.4	66.7	32.1
0	**G/F**	**Floyd North III**	**6-4/215**	**So.**	**4.7**	**2.8**	**1.1**	**50.5**	**84.2**	**43.3**
24	C	Derek Potter	6-11/230	So.	0.3	1.1	0.2	22.2	57.1	—
5	G	Vic Remmers	6-4/190	So.	0.6	0.0	0.2	20.0	100.0	20.0
31	**F**	**Philip Ricci***	**6-7/250**	**Sr.**	**16.2**	**7.1**	**2.3**	**53.7**	**68.8**	**15.4**
35	F	Jarman Sample	6-7/205	Jr.	1.2	1.4	0.3	40.0	60.0	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%22
F	Ian Elseth	6-7/215	1.0	0.7	0.2	52.6	66.7	0.0
G	Adam Masten*	6-5/200	7.6	3.5	2.9	42.1	87.0	37.0
G	Joe See	5-11/180	6.1	1.8	1.9	35.3	79.3	34.7
G	Brandon Payton	6-0/170	5.3	1.6	1.1	35.5	68.8	30.9

Schedule

N23	Idaho	D20	at IUPU-Fort Wayne	J18	at Oregon
N26	Seattle	D22	at Kansas State	J23	Washington State
D2	Cal Poly	D28	Coppin State	J25	Washington
D7	at Portland	J2	Arizona State	J30	at USC
D14	at Sacramento State	J4	Arizona	F1	at UCLA
D17	Portland State	J9	at Stanford	F6	California
		J12	at California	F8	Stanford
				F15	Oregon
				F20	at Washington
				F22	at Washington State
				F27	UCLA
				M1	USC
				M6	at Arizona
				M8	at Arizona State

10. Washington State

National Rank 131

WHAT WE LIKE: After leaning on offensively challenged J Locklier inside the past two seasons, the Cougars turned to the junior college ranks to fill out the post. Literally. Coach Paul Graham, a former Oklahoma State assistant, compares the hefty Justin Kordsmeier with Bryant Reeves—a big man who doesn't run well but has good hands and can finish plays. Ezenwa Ukeagu adds another 255 pounds, and Justin Bellegarde can shoot with some range. Kordsmeier is expected to take over at center and Bellegarde will help at power forward, and the Cougars also will use returning forwards Shami Gill and Milton Riley inside at times. On the perimeter, Marcus Moore has size, shooting ability and quick hands.

WHAT SCARES US: The Cougars relied too heavily on Moore for ballhandling, shooting and defense last season, playing him more than 35 minutes a game. They need other scorers. WSU thought it had a 3-point shooter in Justin Lyman, but his confidence failed him in games. Lyman will get another shot this season, perhaps at small forward. Shooting guard Jerry McNair added slashing to his game, but his perimeter shooting needs work. The Cougars are expecting 3s and defense from St. Mary's transfer Chris Schlatter on the wing, but he, like the new big men, is unproven in the Pac-10. The early league schedule is difficult.

X FACTOR: Whether it's a mental or physical problem—likely, it's both—the Cougars showed an inability to win close games last season. WSU had a chance to beat Arizona and UCLA before falling apart late in the games, a trend Graham at least partially blames on fatigue to Moore and Locklier. If Graham can keep the problem from spreading to the newcomers, the Cougars might have a chance for improvement.

Cougars Data

Coach: Paul Graham (24-59, 3 years).
Assistant coaches: Randall Dickey (3 years), Gary Stewart (3), Chris Croft (3).
2001-2002 record: 6-22. Pac-10: 1-17/10th.

2001-2002 preseason rank: 146.
Last league title: 1941.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Pullman, Wash.
Website: www.wsucougars.com
Home court: Friel Court (12,058).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
55	F	Justin Bellegarde	6-8/230	Jr.	Transfer from Mendocino College in Calif.					
22	**F**	**Shami Gill***	**6-7/222**	**So.**	**3.7**	**3.4**	**0.1**	**46.0**	**65.6**	**—**
10	G	Nick Graham	6-0/176	Jr.	Redshirted last season because of injury.					
12	G	Randy Green	5-6/170	Fr.	Redshirt was all-league pick as H.S. senior.					
15	G	Cedrick Hughey	6-6/197	Sr.	2.7	2.3	0.2	35.8	62.5	13.3
11	G/F	Thomas Kelati	6-5/176	So.	3.3	2.2	1.1	36.1	80.0	33.3
50	**C**	**Justin Kordsmeier**	**6-11/260**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer with a nice shooting touch.**					
4	G	Justin Lyman	6-5/185	Sr.	4.9	1.3	0.5	31.0	57.7	29.1
3	**G**	**Jerry McNair***	**6-2/183**	**Sr.**	**11.6**	**2.1**	**1.0**	**40.7**	**71.2**	**34.7**
1	**G**	**Marcus Moore***	**6-6/182**	**Jr.**	**16.6**	**4.0**	**4.9**	**43.5**	**74.6**	**33.1**
25	F	Milton Riley	6-7/214	Sr.	5.2	4.2	0.2	46.8	67.3	—
5	**F**	**Chris Schlatter**	**6-6/205**	**So.**	**Transfer from St. Mary's.**					
21	F	Pawel Stasiak	6-11/215	Sr.	1.1	1.2	0.2	40.0	33.3	—
32	C	Ezenwa Ukeagu	6-8/255	Jr.	Played for Binghamton in '99-00 before JC.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Mike Bush*	6-6/200	10.9	4.7	2.3	37.6	81.5	31.6
G	E.J. Harris	6-2/170	0.7	0.5	0.6	33.3	50.0	0.0
C	J Locklier*	6-9/240	13.6	6.5	0.4	48.9	71.3	—
F	Justin Murray	6-5/237	1.6	1.6	0.3	71.4	37.5	100.0

Schedule

N30	at TCU	D23	Fresno State	J23	at Oregon State
D4	at Idaho	J2	USC	J25	at Oregon
D7	Gonzaga	J4	UCLA	F1	at Washington
D10	Montana	J9	at Arizona	F6	Arizona State
D14	at Colorado State	J11	at Arizona State	F8	Arizona
D21	High Point	J16	Stanford	F13	at California
		J18	California	F15	at Stanford
				F20	Oregon
				F22	Oregon State
				M1	Washington
				M6	at UCLA
				M8	at USC

Rank 4

Team reports by Rob Daniels, Greensboro News & Record, and Doug Doughty, Roanoke Times.

Atlantic Coast

BY MATT HAYES

They've been the standard for the ACC and college basketball for years. The Duke Blue Devils win, the nation bows and everything is blue and white all over. Or so it seems.

In the last three years, Duke's NCAA resume includes one national title but also two losses in the Sweet 16 as the tournament's No.1 seed. Then there's Maryland, the ACC's silent star. In the same span, the Terps have been to two Final Fours and snagged a national title of their own.

Has The Beltway replaced Tobacco Road?

"Let's face it, this league begins with Duke," says Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser. "But that's a beast up the road (in Maryland)."

Duke, Maryland. Maryland, Duke.

With North Carolina slipping into a shocking slumber last season, the Blue Devils and Terrapins have become the marquee rivals of the league. That should carry over to this season, as they are the favorites again in a conference full of upstarts. But that doesn't mean it's business as usual for the Devils and Terps.

For Duke, there's no Jay Williams, Mike Dunleavy or Carlos Boozer. That means it is in need of immediate—and stunning—contributions from its heralded recruiting class. That class, incidentally, features three post players (Shavlik Randolph, Shelden Williams and Michael Thompson), which could lead to a departure from the Blue Devils' recent heavy reliance on perimeter play.

Maryland returns its floor leader in Steve Blake and some experienced complementary players, but it's staring at gaping holes left by longtime stars Juan Dixon and Lonny Baxter.

The conference as a whole is facing a transition, big boys included. Being the best in the ACC no longer means being a national title favorite. That in itself makes this a different kind of year.

ASCENDING: Georgia Tech. Oh, was it ugly. Seven games, seven losses to start the conference season. Once coach Paul Hewitt got things ironed out, the Yellow Jackets were a dangerous team. Now Tech adds two of the league's top freshmen—big man Chris Bosh and point guard Jarrett Jack—and has a solid nucleus of rising stars in guards B.J. Elder and Marvin Lewis and forward Ed Nelson. The loss of forward Clarence Moore, Tech's most versatile player who quit over the summer, will hurt. But after last year's turnaround, the Jackets can withstand just about any distraction.

DESCENDING: Maryland. No, the Terps aren't going to experience a Tar Heel-type

PREDICTIONS

1. Duke*
2. Maryland*
3. Virginia*
4. Georgia Tech*
5. NC State*
6. North Carolina
7. Wake Forest
8. Clemson
9. Florida State

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Chris Duhon, Duke	6-1	190	Jr.
G	Steve Blake, Maryland	6-3	160	Sr.
F	Josh Howard, Wake Forest	6-6	203	Sr.
F	Dahntay Jones, Duke	6-6	210	Sr.
F/C	Travis Watson, Virginia	6-8	255	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Julius Hodge, NC State	6-6	180	So.
G	Raymond Felton, N. Carolina	6-0	185	Fr.
G	Edward Scott, Clemson	6-0	190	Sr.
F	Chris Hobbs, Clemson	6-7	265	Jr.
F/C	Chris Bosh, Georgia Tech	6-10	210	Fr.

Player of the Year

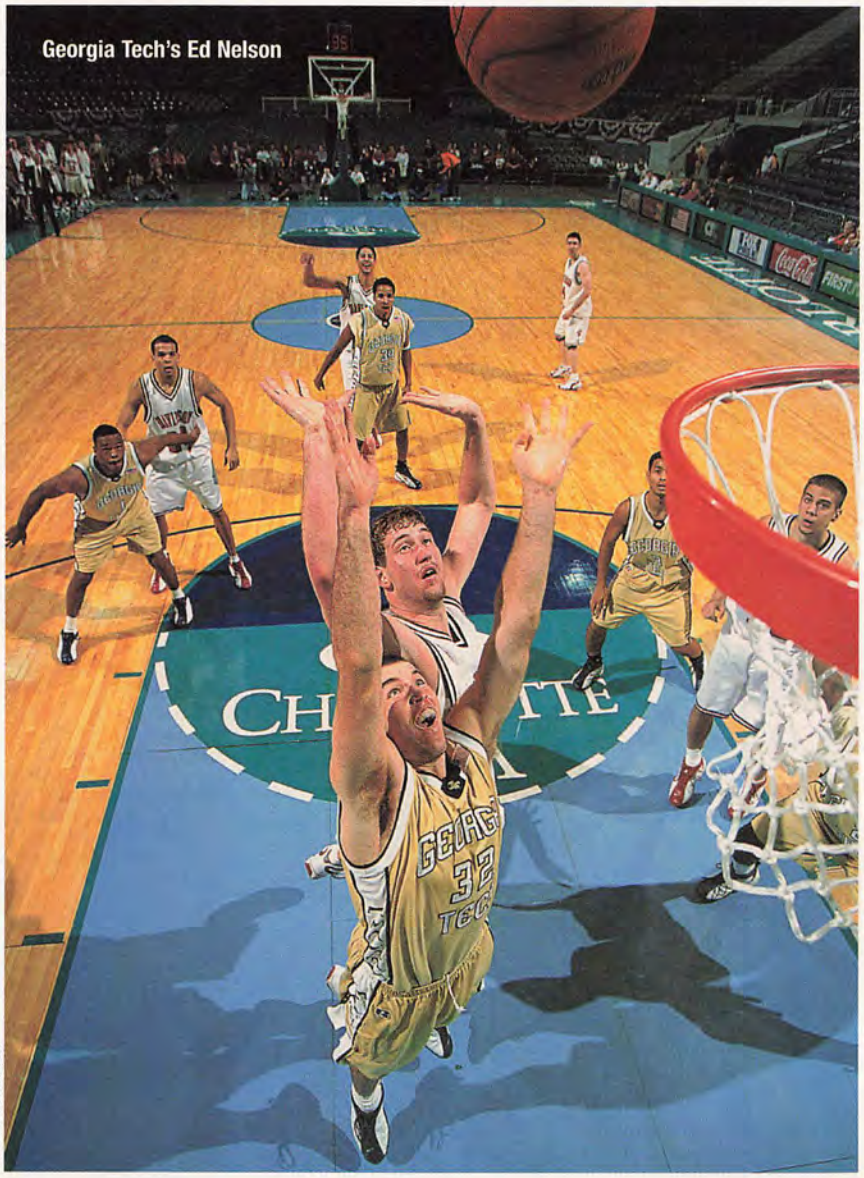
Chris Duhon, Duke

Newcomer of the Year

Chris Bosh, F/C, Georgia Tech

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Todd Billet, Virginia
Best playmaker: Steve Blake, Maryland
Best dunker: Rashad McCants, UNC
Best NBA prospect: Raymond Felton, UNC
Most likely to blossom: Daniel Ewing, Duke
Best rebounder: Travis Watson, Virginia
Best defender: Steve Blake, Maryland
Best game coach: Gary Williams, Maryland
Most versatile: Julius Hodge, NC State
Will take a charge: Ed Nelson, Ga. Tech



Georgia Tech's Ed Nelson

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. North Carolina: Headliner Raymond Felton is the best point guard in his class.

2. Duke: Devils land six top 100 players, including big man Shelden Williams.

3. Maryland: Travis Garrison will be one of best to ever play at the school.

4. Georgia Tech: F Chris Bosh has an NBA future. Jarrett Jack is a smart leader.

5. Wake Forest: PG Justin Gray is solid. Eric Williams is strong in the low post.

6. Virginia: Derrick Byars is a slasher. Devon Smith should help right away.

7. Clemson: Big man Akin Akinbala is a late bloomer who has good upside.

8. Florida State: Tim Pickett is intriguing as a long-range shooter.

9. NC State: G Justin Flatt was a big-time prep scorer. —*Mike Sullivan*

fall to the depths of the league. They still will be very good and could again win the conference. But they aren't among the nation's elite, as this is a year where Gary Williams probably will have to step back and regroup. Dixon was the heart of last year's national championship team, and Baxter was a bruising low-post presence. How many clutch shots did they make in their eight combined years in College Park? Who will make those shots this time around?

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Jay Williams, Duke. No one can replace Williams, the No. 2 pick in the NBA draft, but at least guard Daniel Ewing, a fearless scorer and an excellent shooter, showed in the NCAA tourney he can handle a big stage.

2. Juan Dixon, Maryland. The wispy off-guard gave the Terps shooting, defense and emotion. Drew Nicholas has started once in three years but has played extensively at both guard spots. Dixon's job is his now.

3. Mike Dunleavy, Duke. Had Dunleavy returned, he would have been the top choice for national player of the year, and Duke would have been a potential preseason No. 1 pick. Dahntay Jones can't shoot like Dunleavy, but he needs to score big.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Edward Scott, Clemson. One league coach says if the point guard played at Duke, he'd be an All-American. That's an impressive endorsement and not all that outrageous when you consider Scott was second in the league in assists and played on one of the worst shooting teams in the league. He's a true playmaker and stingy defender and plays with grit and emotion.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT:

Larry Shyatt, Clemson. Hot seat? How about pack your bags, Mr. Shyatt? He nearly lost his job after last year's 13-17 disaster. It doesn't help that the other state school (South Carolina) advanced to the NIT finals and is opening a state-of-the-art facility this season. Meanwhile, Clemson will be playing its "home" games at the Anderson Civic Center until Littlejohn Coliseum is ready in January.

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Travis Watson	Virginia	14.1
Josh Howard	Wake Forest	13.9
Edward Scott	Clemson	11.9
Chris Hobbs	Clemson	11.6
Dahntay Jones	Duke	11.2

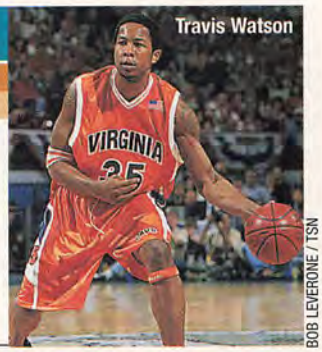
Name	School	RPG
Travis Watson	Virginia	9.7
Ray Henderson	Clemson	8.8
Josh Howard	Wake Forest	7.7
Ed Nelson	Georgia Tech	6.9
Chris Hobbs	Clemson	6.1

Name	School	APG
Steve Blake	Maryland	7.9
Edward Scott	Clemson	7.9
Chris Duhon	Duke	5.9
Keith Jenifer	Virginia	2.8
Drew Nicholas	Maryland	2.4

Name	School	FG%
Ray Henderson	Clemson	54.6
Chris Hobbs	Clemson	54.1
Travis Watson	Virginia	52.5
Jawad Williams	North Carolina	51.5
Dahntay Jones	Duke	50.5

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Maryland	15	1	32	4	15	0	17	4
Duke	13	3	31	4	13	0	18	4
NC State	9	7	23	11	14	4	9	7
Wake Forest	9	7	21	13	13	3	8	10
Virginia	7	9	17	12	13	4	4	8
Georgia Tech	7	9	15	16	8	7	7	9
Clemson	4	12	13	17	8	8	5	9
Florida State	4	12	12	17	10	6	2	11
North Carolina	4	12	8	20	6	9	2	11



Travis Watson

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Team stats

Total offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Duke	35	49.5	69.0	36.3	37.2	17.9	10.0	3.2	14.3	88.9
Maryland	36	48.2	72.6	37.4	41.1	19.8	8.4	6.0	13.8	85.0
Wake Forest	34	47.8	73.8	36.6	38.6	16.3	6.5	4.1	14.6	82.0
Virginia	29	46.3	71.9	33.3	38.3	14.3	6.5	4.5	15.7	79.6
Georgia Tech	31	43.1	69.2	37.6	38.2	15.5	8.7	3.3	15.4	76.5
NC State	34	45.2	75.5	36.0	32.9	16.1	7.9	2.1	13.3	75.4
Clemson	30	43.9	62.6	31.8	41.5	14.7	7.3	3.5	15.5	75.2
North Carolina	28	43.9	69.0	35.0	34.7	17.0	6.0	3.5	16.5	72.2
Florida State	29	43.0	65.6	33.6	38.8	13.2	7.7	3.5	16.4	71.8

Total defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
NC State	34	44.2	73.7	31.4	33.1	12.9	6.9	3.3	16.4	67.8
Duke	35	42.1	68.9	30.3	36.2	12.6	7.1	2.9	19.8	69.2
Maryland	36	39.9	68.1	31.7	37.4	13.6	7.1	3.6	15.4	70.9
Florida State	29	44.1	70.8	36.4	35.0	14.8	8.5	4.2	15.9	74.0
Virginia	29	44.2	71.5	34.0	34.3	15.4	7.1	3.7	15.8	74.3
Georgia Tech	31	44.9	69.7	35.6	36.5	16.5	7.6	3.1	16.1	76.6
Clemson	30	43.6	67.4	36.8	36.4	15.3	7.8	3.1	14.0	76.8
Wake Forest	34	44.2	68.5	34.4	35.7	14.7	7.6	2.8	14.4	77.0
North Carolina	28	45.2	70.7	36.2	37.4	14.1	9.3	3.5	12.8	78.9

BEST BETS: FSU's Michael Joiner, one of the ACC's top freshmen two years ago, will thrive under Leonard Hamilton. Joiner's sophomore slump, not surprisingly, coincided with a strained relationship with former coach Steve Robinson. … Tahj Holden, Maryland's 6-10, 247-pound forward/center, will be a better rebounder than Lonny Baxter. The problem is, he doesn't have near the offensive skills. … Forget about the high-profile recruits at Duke and North Carolina. Georgia Tech's Bosh, an athletic big man with a soft touch, will be the league's top newcomer. … Virginia actually will get better on the perimeter even with Roger Mason's early departure to the NBA, particularly if Majestic Mapp is finally healthy. Junior college All-American Devin Smith and Rutgers transfer Todd Billet can light it up from the perimeter. … NC State will have the league's most dangerous frontcourt with Marcus Melvin, Josh Powell and Levi Watkins. **TSN**

E-mail staff writer Matt Hayes at **mhayes@sportingnews.com.**

National Rank 9

1. Duke

WHAT WE LIKE: This could be one of the deepest teams in the country—as many as five interchangeable guards, four big guys and a swingman—and it accentuates coach Mike Krzyzewski's ability to plan for the future. For the second time in four years, the Blue Devils' roster was thinned by early entries to the NBA draft. But similar to 1999, the defections won't be catastrophic because of the strength of the incoming recruiting class. Six freshmen will join the fray in the equally young ACC, and five of them could play important roles. Point guard Sean Dockery, 3-point specialist J.J. Redick and post players Shavlik Randolph, Shelden Williams and Michael Thompson have been anticipated for so long that it seems like they suited up for the Blue Devils long ago. Randolph, in particular, thrilled Duke fans by becoming the first in-state player to pick Duke over North Carolina in decades. It will be hard for the freshmen to meet the expectations placed on them in an area in which basketball is king and basketball recruiting is crown prince. But in the long run, this group will take some of the sting out of the expected early departures of Jason Williams and Carlos Boozer and the unexpected loss of Mike Dunleavy. Depth is such that if one rookie is down, another could step up.

Schedule

N23 Army
N25 Davidson
N30 UCLA*
D3 Ohio State**
D7 Michigan
D17 at N.Carolina A&T**
D29 Dayton
J2 Fairfield
J5 at Clemson
J8 Georgetown
J12 Wake Forest
J15 Virginia
J18 at Maryland
J22 at NC State
J25 Georgia Tech
J30 Butler
F2 at Florida State
F5 North Carolina
F9 Clemson
F13 at Wake Forest
F15 at Virginia
F19 Maryland
F22 NC State
F26 at Georgia Tech
M2 at St. John's
M6 Florida State
M9 at North Carolina
*at Indianapolis
**at Greensboro, N.C.

WHAT SCARES US: In the ACC, as many as five of the nine teams could start multiple rookies, so youth won't be as prevalent or relevant an excuse as it normally is. When it comes time for the NCAA Tournament, however, it's conceivable that inexperience could become an issue. Seven of the Blue Devils' top 10 players will be freshmen or sophomores. About the only knock on the Blue Devils last season was free-throw shooting, though that might have cost the team a shot at the national championship. Remember that 10-of-19 performance from the line against Indiana in the Sweet 16? The Hoosiers' comeback was admirable, but they had some help from the Blue Devils. In big moments of postseason games, it's almost certain a freshman will be asked to help the club fend off the opponent's charge by knocking down a couple of freebies. Ballhandling and foul shooting are perhaps the two areas in which freshmen are most scrutinized. Ideally, the team probably would like to have another swingman in the rotation because Redick, Daniel Ewing, Chris Duhon and Dockery are full-time guards, but if Dahntay Jones stays injury-free, Duke can get by with a few minutes a game from others. To say this is scary is a bit hyperbolic because these days a team can get by without a standard lineup. Just about every other team in the nation would love to have such a problem.

X FACTOR: Except for a credible stand-in performance for the injured Boozer in the 2001 NCAA Tournament, Casey Sanders has been a disappointment since his arrival in the program in 1999. Little is expected of him now, but if he has a decent preseason, he could work his way into the rotation and perhaps ease some of the burden on any of the three big freshmen who needs help. The Blue Devils are beyond demanding much out of Sanders, but if he can show a spark, they won't turn it down. —*R.D.*

AN ACC COACH SAYS...

Chris Duhon is ready for a breakout. He deferred to (Jay) Williams and (Mike) Dunleavy last year. He could be the best guard in the league. Along with Daniel Ewing and Dahntay Jones, their backcourt is solid. Can Casey Sanders and Nick Horvath give them enough until their young guys are ready? The young guys will play early and, by the middle of the year, will play often. I look for Duke to run sets and be more structured.

Chris Duhon

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Blue Devils Data

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski (564-168, 22 years, 637-227 overall, 27 years; 58-15 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA titles in 1991,1992 and 2001).
Assistant coaches: Johnny Dawkins (4 years), Steve Wojciechowski (3), Chris Collins (2).
2001-2002 record: 31-4. ACC: 13-3/2nd. Lost to Indiana in NCAA South semifinals.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 2.
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Durham, N.C.
Website: www.goduke.com
Home court: Cameron Indoor Stadium (9,314).

Roster *2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
40	G	Andy Borman	6-1/180	Sr.	0.6	0.9	0.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
2	G	Andre Buckner	5-10/170	Sr.	0.9	0.3	0.5	28.6	60.0	16.7
45	G	Mark Causey	6-3/180	So.	1.1	0.7	0.3	40.0	50.0	66.7
15	G	Sean Dockery	6-2/175	Fr.	Is expected to back up at point guard.					
21	**G**	**Chris Duhon***	**6-1/190**	**Jr.**	**8.9**	**3.1**	**5.9**	**41.0**	**71.1**	**34.0**
5	**G**	**Daniel Ewing**	**6-3/170**	**So.**	**6.5**	**2.2**	**1.3**	**47.9**	**68.6**	**45.7**
3	F	Nick Horvath	6-10/235	Jr.	1.5	2.1	1.3	31.1	50.0	4.8
30	**G/F**	**Dahntay Jones***	**6-6/210**	**Sr.**	**11.2**	**4.2**	**1.1**	**50.5**	**72.5**	**23.1**
53	G	Andy Means	6-5/190	Jr.	1.1	1.0	0.1	50.0	50.0	100.0
13	F	Lee Melchionni	6-6/215	Fr.	Walk-on who might redshirt this season.					
42	F	Shavlik Randolph	6-10/215	Fr.	Inside-outside threat scored 30 ppg as Sr.					
4	G	J.J. Redick	6-4/200	Fr.	McDonald's All-American Game MVP.					
20	**C**	**Casey Sanders**	**6-11/235**	**Sr.**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**0.2**	**55.9**	**48.0**	**—**
50	C	Michael Thompson	6-10/250	Fr.	Averaged 25 ppg, 12 rpg, 4 blks as Sr.					
23	**F**	**Shelden Williams**	**6-9/255**	**Fr.**	**Power player who can dominate inside.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Carlos Boozer*	6-9/270	18.2	8.7	1.1	66.5	75.4	—
F	Mike Dunleavy*	6-8/220	17.3	7.2	2.1	48.3	68.1	37.8
G	Jason Williams*	6-2/196	21.3	3.5	5.3	45.7	67.6	38.3

National Rank 14

2. Maryland

WHAT WE LIKE: Somehow, despite all of their personnel losses, the Terrapins have four scholarship seniors—rare for an elite program these days. Two of them have played in every Maryland game over the past three years, including point guard and two-time ACC assists champion Steve Blake, who has started 105 of 107 games. The other is Drew Nicholas, who has started one game in three years but averaged more than 20 minutes per game last season for the NCAA champions. The post game will suffer without Lonny Baxter and Chris Wilcox, but Maryland has the weaponry to turn its focus to the perimeter. Blake, Nicholas and Tahj Holden combined for 75 field goals last season when Holden started the first 11 games. Holden eventually gave way to Wilcox in the starting lineup but was a physical presence on defense. Nicholas finally has a position to call his own after getting most of his time as Blake's backup or as part of a three-guard alignment with Blake and Juan Dixon. A nationally ranked recruiting class should provide immediate help, with the most likely early contributor being Jamar Smith at small or power forward.

Schedule

N24	Miami (Ohio)
N27	The Citadel
N30	Duquesne
D3	Indiana*
D7-8	BB+T Classic
D14	Florida
D23	UMBC
D29	Georgia Tech
J4	Wagner
D8	Hampton
J11	Florida State
J15	at Wake Forest
J18	Duke
J22	at North Carolina
J25	at Clemson
J30	NC State
F2	Loyola (Md.)
F6	Virginia
F9	at Georgia Tech
F12	at Florida State
F16	Wake Forest
F19	at Duke
F22	North Carolina
M2	at NC State
M9	at Virginia

*at Indianapolis

WHAT SCARES US: Maryland will be asking a lot from Ryan Randle, who played fewer than 10 minutes per game last season, primarily as Blake's backup. But he is the best hope to fill some of the rebounding void left by the departure of Baxter, Wilcox and Byron Mouton. Holden always has been a small forward in a power forward's body, launching 84 career 3-pointers and averaging fewer than 6½ rebounds every 40 minutes. Unless Holden starts playing more like a post player, rebounding will have to be a consideration in replacing small forward Mouton, who was an underrated defensive player. Recruit Nik Caner-Medley has impressive credentials, but the ACC is several notches above the level of competition he faced in Maine. The backcourt should be in safe hands, but there might be some lingering doubts because of Blake's uneven play down the stretch. After four straight double-figure scoring games in early March, he averaged 5.2 points over the last five games, going 7-for-29 from the field during that span. And no one should downplay the loss of Dixon, a gritty, three-time All-ACC player who wanted to take the big shots—and made most of them.

X FACTOR: Gary Williams' reputation has undergone a metamorphasis since the mid to late 1990s, when his teams were known best for making premature flameouts in the NCAA Tournament. Making back-to-back trips to the Final Four has a way of changing things. The Terrapins won 110 games over the past four seasons, and they did it without the nation's most highly recruited talent. Williams always has been an advocate of the uptempo style that players like, but the Terps started to win big when they developed a halfcourt game—offensively and defensively—to go with it. Whether Williams has mellowed is open to debate. When a team is winning, everything sounds sweeter, even the ranting. —*D.D.*

AN ACC COACH SAYS...

You start with Steve Blake, but I don't know who you look to next. Drew Nicholas, can he step up and take a bigger role? I don't think so. I don't see anybody at small forward. Tahj Holden, Ryan Randle, Travis Garrison and Jamar Smith—good, but they don't separate themselves from other teams in the league. They don't have a go-to guy. I don't know who's going to score for them. I think they lost too much to compete for an ACC championship.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Terrapins Data

Coach: Gary Williams (274-143, 12 years; 481-271 overall, 24 years; 23-11 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA Tournament in 2002).
Assistant coaches: Dave Dickerson (6 years), Jimmy Pastos (11), Matt Kovarik (1).
2001-2002 record: 32-4. ACC: 15-1/1st. Beat Indiana in NCAA final.
2001-2002 preseaon rank: 3.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: College Park, Md.
Website: www.umterps.com
Home court: Comcast Center (17,100).

Roster — ***2001-2002 starter** — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
25	**G**	**Steve Blake***	**6-3/160**	**Sr.**	**8.0**	**3.8**	**7.9**	**38.2**	**82.4**	**34.4**
2	G	Andre Collins	5-9/180	So.	2.2	0.5	0.9	66.7	77.8	50.0
15	F	Nik Caner-Medley	6-7/210	Fr.	Might be biggest surprise of class.					
4	F/C	Travis Garrison	6-9/215	Fr.	A good defender who can face basket.					
21	F	Mike Grinnon	6-6/195	So.	0.4	0.3	0.3	28.6	100.0	25.0
45	**F/C**	**Tahj Holden**	**6-10/247**	**Sr.**	**5.6**	**2.7**	**1.2**	**45.3**	**83.6**	**42.5**
11	G	John Gilchrist	6-1/170	Fr.	Will get time behind Blake, Nicholas.					
5	G	Calvin McCall	6-3/200	Sr.	1.4	0.8	0.1	52.6	50.0	50.0
13	G	Chris McCray	6-4/180	Fr.	Shooting guard who will spell Nicholas.					
12	**G**	**Drew Nicholas**	**6-3/160**	**Sr.**	**7.1**	**2.3**	**2.4**	**47.7**	**80.3**	**39.6**
33	**F/C**	**Ryan Randle**	**6-9/245**	**Sr.**	**3.8**	**3.1**	**0.1**	**52.4**	**56.3**	**100.0**
1	**F/C**	**Jamar Smith**	**6-9/225**	**Jr.**	**Terps get another Allegany CC transfer.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F/C	Lonny Baxter*	6-8/260	15.2	8.2	0.8	54.5	62.3	0.0
G	Juan Dixon*	6-3/164	20.4	4.6	2.9	46.9	89.8	39.7
G/F	Byron Mouton*	6-6/215	11.1	5.0	2.1	46.9	76.7	25.5
F/C	Chris Wilcox*	6-10/220	12.0	7.1	1.5	50.4	58.5	0.0

3. Virginia

National Rank 28

WHAT WE LIKE: In senior Travis Watson, the Cavaliers have the top rebounder in the ACC last year as well as the league's top returning scorer. With Nick Vander Laan, a transfer from California, ready to go, Watson finally can play with a legitimate center who will allow him to move to power forward, his more natural spot. In a conference where many teams lack one proven point guard, the Cavaliers have three, including Keith Jenifer, who started 15 games last year as a freshman. Jenifer will have to fight for playing time with Majestic Mapp and Todd Billet. Both watched from the bench last season, Billet after transferring from Rutgers and Mapp after being sidelined by reconstructive knee surgery for the second year in a row.

WHAT SCARES US: People were high on the Cavaliers last year, too, after they won their first nine games. They got to 14-2 before losing 10 of their last 13 games, the kind of late-season fold that has been their pattern since 1995, when Virginia made the NCAA's Elite Eight under former coach Jeff Jones. Jones' replacement, Pete Gillen, has done a remarkable job of rebuilding the program, but his pressing style has left Virginia vulnerable in the halfcourt game. UVa's last seven opponents shot 50 percent or better from the field. The schedule this season is tougher, too.

X FACTOR: The departure of assistant Tom Herrion, named head coach at College of Charleston, gave Gillen a chance to realign his staff. He went outside the Gillen "family," bringing in Rod Jensen, whose forte was defense in seven seasons as the head coach at Boise State. The somewhat unexpected loss of Roger Mason to the NBA created a spot for Devin Smith, a junior college All-American, who, along with Billet, should make the Cavaliers more dangerous from 3-point range. —*D.D.*

Cavaliers Data

Coach: Pete Gillen (70-49, 4 years; 344-177 overall, 17 years; 8-9 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Walt Fuller (4 years), Scott Shepherd (3), Rod Jensen (1st).
2001-2002 record: 17-12. ACC: 7-9/T5th. Lost to South Carolina in NIT first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 11.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Charlottesville, Va.
Website: www.virginiasports.com
Home court: University Hall (8,392).

**Roster* **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
22	**G**	**Todd Billet**	**6-0/183**	**Jr.**	**Set Rutgers record with 82 3s in '00-01.**					
42	F	Elton Brown	6-9/265	So.	7.6	3.1	0.4	50.3	66.0	37.5
5	F	Derrick Byars	6-7/210	Fr.	An All-Metro player in Memphis.					
34	F	Jason Clark	6-8/225	So.	3.7	2.8	0.4	58.0	62.2	—
24	G	Jermaine Harper	6-3/166	So.	5.8	1.6	0.8	43.8	83.3	28.3
10	**G**	**Keith Jenifer**	**6-3/155**	**So.**	**4.0**	**2.0**	**2.8**	**37.8**	**61.7**	**11.1**
11	G	Majestic Mapp	6-2/184	Jr.	Missed last two years with knee injuries.					
30	C/F	Jason Rogers	6-11/231	Sr.	1.7	1.3	0.1	42.1	50.0	—
33	**G/F**	**Devin Smith**	**6-5/215**	**So.**	**Transfer from Coffeyville CC.**					
4	**C**	**Nick Vander Laan**	**6-10/249**	**Jr.**	**Started 21 games for California in '00-01.**					
35	**F/C**	**Travis Watson***	**6-8/255**	**Sr.**	**14.1**	**9.7**	**1.12**	**52.5**	**69.5**	**50.0**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Adam Hall*	6-5/200	9.7	4.6	1.8	41.2	68.6	24.5
G	Roger Mason*	6-5/201	18.6	3.2	4.1	40.9	88.1	36.7
F	J.C. Mathis*	6-8/231	Transferred to Michigan					
F	Chris Williams*	6-7/206	14.0	6.1	2.7	51.8	70.9	37.3

Schedule

N22	Long Island	D28	Georgetown	J21	at Virginia Tech
N25-27	Maui Invit.	D30	Liberty	J23	Wake Forest
D4	at Michigan St.	J2	Wofford	J29	Florida State
D17	East Tenn. State	J5	NC State	F1	at Georgia Tech
D19	Gardner Webb	J11	North Carolina	F6	at Maryland
D21	at Rutgers	J15	at Duke	F9	NC State
		J18	at Clemson	F12	North Carolina
				F15	Duke
				F18	Clemson
				F23	at Wake Forest
				F26	at Ohio
				M1	at Florida St
				M5	Georgia Tech
				M9	Maryland

4. Georgia Tech

National Rank 32

WHAT WE LIKE: Seven Yellow Jackets who played at least 15 minutes per game return to a team that enjoyed the greatest in-season turnaround in ACC history. After losing its first seven conference games, Georgia Tech won seven of its next nine before falling to Wake Forest in the first round of the ACC tournament. The development of 7-footer Luke Schenscher and the addition of one of the nation's top recruits in Chris Bosh solidifies the post game. That should help Ed Nelson, the ACC Rookie of the Year last season, who is undersized for the center spot he often was forced to play. Marvin Lewis is the ACC's top returning 3-point shooter, and B.J. Elder is another long-range threat.

WHAT SCARES US: More than 40 percent of the offense last season went through departed point guard Tony Akins, who led the team in scoring and assists. Tech hopes highly rated freshman Jarrett Jack can take over. Jack is a scoring point, in the Akins mold, and considerably taller at 6-3. There really is no Plan B, which is risky. At midsummer, the team learned 6-5 Clarence Moore, described as "our most important player" by coach Paul Hewitt, was giving up basketball. Moore, who said in December it was possible he wouldn't return, was a good rebounder who could check a perimeter or post player. His leadership will be missed.

X FACTOR: In two seasons at Tech, Hewitt has established himself as one of the bright young coaches in college basketball. In 2000-2001, he was named ACC Coach of the Year after taking a team that was picked eighth in the preseason and leading it to the NCAA Tournament. His performance in holding the team together during a nightmarish first two months last season was no less impressive. Although this is a young team—there are no scholarship seniors—it is the most talented Hewitt has had. —*D.D.*

Yellow Jackets Data

Coach: Paul Hewitt (32-29, 2 years; 98-56 overall, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Dan Keener (2 years), Willie Reese (3), Cliff Warren (2).
2001-2002 record: 15-16. ACC: 7-9/6th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 59.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Atlanta.
Website: www.ramblinwreck.com
Home court: Alexander Memorial Coliseum at McDonald's Center (9,191).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	**F/C**	**Chris Bosh**	**6-10/210**	**Fr.**	**Heralded lefty has inside-outside game.**					
34	F	Robert Brooks	6-8/215	Jr.	3.4	4.3	0.7	44.3	71.1	—
1	**G**	**B.J. Elder***	**6-3/215**	**So.**	**9.9**	**2.1**	**1.4**	**42.8**	**78.7**	**36.0**
11	F	David Ewing	6-4/230	Sr.	0.0	0.2	0.0	—	—	—
3	**G**	**Jarrett Jack**	**6-3/185**	**Fr.**	**Scorer who fills need at point guard.**					
24	**G**	**Marvin Lewis***	**6-4/200**	**Jr.**	**10.9**	**3.9**	**1.8**	**40.8**	**87.5**	**39.1**
55	G/F	Anthony McHenry	6-6/212	So.	1.8	1.3	0.7	29.7	46.2	18.5
2	F	Isma'il Muhammad	6-5/218	So.	7.1	3.1	1.2	46.5	52.5	47.1
51	G	David Nelson	5-9/160	Jr.	0.6	0.0	0.2	50.0	—	100.0
32	**F**	**Ed Nelson***	**6-7/250**	**So.**	**8.5**	**6.9**	**1.6**	**50.0**	**56.6**	**—**
	G/F	Jim Nystrom	6-5/195	Fr.	August signee from Sweden to sit out 8 games.					
12	C	Luke Schenscher	7-0/230	So.	4.8	3.2	0.8	58.7	51.4	—
44	F	Theodis Tarver	6-9/220	Fr.	Averaged 18.5 ppg, 11 rpg, 5.2 blks as Sr.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Tony Akins*	5-11/182	17.0	3.8	5.7	41.9	83.3	40.3
G/F	Halston Lane	6-4/210	6.1	2.6	0.9	35.5	7.4	35.3
F	Clarence Moore*	6-5/220	9.4	5.4	2.1	45.9	69.1	35.8

Schedule

N23	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D17	Troy State	J22	Elon
N27	Georgia	D21	at Syracuse	J25	at Duke
D1	Gardner Webb	D29	at Maryland	J29	North Carolina
D4	at Minnesota	J2	at Tulane	F1	Virginia
D7	Marist*	J8	Cornell	F5	at Clemson
D15	Tennessee**	J11	NC State	F9	Maryland
		J14	Florida State	F12	at NC State
		J19	at Wake Forest	F15	at Florida State
				F20	Wake Forest
				F26	Duke
				M1	at North Carolina
				M5	at Virginia
				M8	Clemson
				*at New York City	
				**at Atlanta	

5. North Carolina State

National Rank 36

WHAT WE LIKE: First and foremost, we like Julius Hodge, who didn't seem to mind that he didn't get to take every shot last year despite the huge reputation that preceded him coming to the program. Hodge could be headed for an All-ACC season, in part because he'll have to play 35 minutes a game in league play and be asked to get about 18 points a contest. He's capable of both. Marcus Melvin and Josh Powell have developed faster than expected over the past two years, and if Levi Watkins can stay healthy, State will have a legitimate post rotation in the event of foul trouble. On the perimeter, Ilian Evtimov shot 37 percent from beyond the 3-point line last year.

WHAT SCARES US: Potential trouble at the point. Coach Herb Sendek pursued big-time recruit John Gilchrist for three years—until Gilchrist shocked Sendek by signing with Maryland. In the spring, State was left with Dominick Mejia, an intriguing prospect who originally committed to Rutgers. But he's not necessarily the kind of player to whom you hand the keys to the car right away. Clifford Crawford and Scooter Sherrill could dabble in the job, but neither has full-time experience there. Last year's starting backcourt of Archie Miller and Anthony Grundy played every major minute down the stretch, and somebody is going to have to emerge to lead this year's team.

X FACTOR: Can Sherrill and/or Crawford develop into prolific scorers and fill multiple roles? It's hard to tell because neither has earned consistent—i.e., 20 minutes every night—playing time in his career. But Hodge will need somebody to stretch zones and free wing space for drives to the goal, and Evtimov can't do it alone. Sherrill and Crawford have the athleticism to do the job; this is their opportunity. —*R.D.*

Wolfpack Data

Coach: Herb Sendek (109-85, 6 years; 172-111 overall, 9 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Larry Harris (6 years), Larry Hunter (1), Mark Phelps (6).
2001-2002 record: 23-11.
ACC: 9-7/T3rd. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA East second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 67.
Last league title: 1987.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1992.
Site: Raleigh, N.C.
Website: www.gopack.com
Home court: Entertainment and Sports Arena (19,722).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
13	G/F	C. Bennerman	6-4/190	Fr.	Top 100 recruit is a well-rounded player.					
32	C	Jordan Collins	6-10/240	So.	1.6	1.4	0.3	36.4	81.8	0.0
30	G	**Clifford Crawford**	6-3/190	Sr.	4.3	1.9	1.6	41.9	65.6	25.0
4	G	Davonte Edwards	6-0/180	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
3	G	Ilian Evtimov	6-7/215	So.	7.1	2.9	1.7	38.8	73.0	37.0
10	G	Justin Flatt	6-4/180	Fr.	One of finalists for Mr. Basketball in Tenn.					
24	F/G	**Julius Hodge***	6-6/180	So.	10.7	4.8	2.2	44.2	74.2	34.7
1	G	Dominick Mejia	6-4/190	Fr.	Named first-team N.J. All-State.					
54	F/C	**Marcus Melvin***	6-8/225	Jr.	10.1	5.4	1.9	49.4	75.5	43.8
33	F/C	**Josh Powell***	6-9/210	So.	7.2	3.9	0.9	52.8	71.2	14.3
22	F	Will Roach	6-5/185	So.	Redshirted last season.					
23	G	**Scooter Sherrill**	6-3/185	Jr.	5.7	1.2	0.9	43.8	83.6	33.8
34	C	Adam Simons	7-0/220	Fr.	Averaged 15 boards, 4 blocks a game as Sr.					
21	F	Levi Watkins	6-7/220	So.	3.2	2.0	0.3	37.8	80.0	27.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Anthony Grundy*	6-3/185	17.8	5.5	3.5	48.6	76.6	34.6
G	Archie Miller*	5-10/160	9.9	1.4	2.9	42.4	85.9	39.8

Schedule

N22	Mount St. Mary's	D21	Fairleigh Dickinson	J26	North Carolina	F22	at Duke
N30	Coppin State	D29	Wofford	J30	at Maryland	F25	at UNC
D4	Northwestern	J2	at Massachusetts	F2	Clemson	M2	Maryland
D8	South Carolina	J5	Virginia	F6	at Wake Forest	M5	at Clemson
D14	NC A&T	J11	at Georgia Tech	F9	at Virginia	M8	Wake Forest
D17	Gonzaga*	J16	Boston College	F12	Georgia Tech	*at East Rutherford, NJ	
		J18	at Florida State	F15	at Temple		
		J22	Duke	F18	Florida State		

6. North Carolina

National Rank 52

WHAT WE LIKE: Matt Doherty signed three of the top 12 players in the class of 2002, and they'll give the Tar Heels a new, dynamic look after the 8-20 disaster last season. Point guard Raymond Felton won the Naismith Award at the high school level, guard Rashad McCants explodes to the basket, and Sean May can bang with anyone down low. Starting three rookies seems implausible in a program of Carolina's stature, but there is little alternative. The team's fans spent more time last season wondering about Latta, S.C., which produced Felton, than they did about the Tar Heels. Now the waiting is over.

WHAT SCARES US: What if May gets into foul trouble or, worse, gets hurt? Doherty needed to bring in more elite big men to go with May in order to complete an unreasonably quick fix; last spring, Doherty had to settle for two projects who aren't ACC-ready. May is the Tar Heels' only credible post player, but how committed is he to playing in the post? He was enticed by Louisville because of coach Rick Pitino's promise to let him shoot 3-pointers. This is a thin team that can't afford attrition or the kind of controversy that rocked the program last spring, when current and outgoing players criticized Doherty's intense coaching style.

X FACTOR: Power forward Jawad Williams often was tentative on the glass last season, pulling down only 4.2 rebounds a game as a freshman. If he can get stronger and develop some offensive versatility and a mean streak, he will help cover up the team's depth issues until more reinforcements arrive, presumably via recruiting. It might not be enough to get Carolina back to its normal level, but it's an important start. On a more basic level, the program doesn't want to lose Williams, who threatened to transfer last spring but said things had calmed down by the summer. —*R.D.*

Tar Heels Data

Coach: Matt Doherty (34-27, 2 years; 56-43 overall, 3 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Bob MacKinnon (2 years), Fred Quartlebaum (2), Doug Wojcik (2).
2001-2002 record: 8-20.
ACC: 4-12/T7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 21.
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Chapel Hill, N.C.
Website: www.tarheelblue.com
Home court: Smith Center (21,750).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
2	G	**Raymond Felton**	6-0/185	Fr.	Named to all USA Boys Basketball team.					
25	C	Damion Grant	6-11/255	Fr.	Has played two years of organized hoops.					
14	G	Jonathan Holmes	6-0/185	Sr.	1.1	0.5	0.7	50.0	50.0	57.1
44	F	Will Johnson	6-8/220	Sr.	3.9	2.5	1.4	43.7	70.0	42.9
42	F/C	**Sean May**	6-9/250	Fr.	Father, Scott, led Indiana to '76 NCAA title.					
5	G	Jackie Manuel	6-5/185	So.	5.5	3.5	2.1	32.9	56.6	31.4
32	F/G	**Rashad McCants**	6-3/190	Fr.	One of the best H.S. shooting guards.					
34	G/F	David Noel	6-5/210	Fr.	Also played football in high school.					
41	F	Byron Sanders	6-8/215	Fr.	Mississippi native is a versatile player.					
1	G	**Melvin Scott***	6-2/180	So.	6.2	1.0	2.0	40.0	63.9	35.0
21	F	**Jawad Williams***	6-8/200	So.	9.8	4.2	1.2	51.5	55.7	38.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Brian Bersticker	6-10/232	4.0	2.5	0.6	56.6	62.5	66.7
PG	Adam Boone*	6-2/182	Transferred to Minnesota.					
F	Jason Capel*	6-8/224	15.6	8.6	3.0	42.7	82.4	31.0
C	Kris Lang*	6-11/243	14.0	6.0	1.0	50.2	64.6	0.0
G	Brian Morrison	6-2/175	Transferred to UCLA					

Schedule

N18-29	Preseason NIT	D27-28	ECAC Holiday Fest.	J26	at NC State	F18	North Carolina A&T
N24	at Old Dominion	J4	at Miami (Fla.)	J29	at Georgia Tech	F22	at Maryland
D3	Illinois*	J8	Davidson	F2	Wake Forest	M1	Georgia Tech
D7	Kentucky	J11	at Virginia	F5	at Duke	M5	at Wake Forest
D19	Vermont	J14	Clemson	F8	Florida State	M9	Duke
D22	at Florida St.	J18	Connecticut	F12	Virginia	*at Chicago	
		J22	Maryland	F15	at Clemson		

7. Wake Forest

National Rank 53

WHAT WE LIKE: Swingman Josh Howard adapted well to coach Skip Prosser's uptempo system last season, going on a tear before injuries in February and March curtailed him. If healthy, Howard is an almost certain first-team All-ACC performer. Forward Vytas Danelius and point guard Taron Downey played more and better than expected as freshmen, and both will be asked to fill big roles this season. Downey's job is the less critical of the two because incoming freshman Justin Gray could be ready right away. But Danelius has to lock down the power forward or center spot, taking over for departed Darius Songaila. Downey unseated senior Broderick Hicks at midseason last year and was remarkably poised down the stretch.

WHAT SCARES US: Center Eric Williams, Wake's first McDonald's All-American in a decade, didn't have a great spring or summer. His weight reportedly was near 300 pounds at times, and he struggled with injuries. Prosser says he isn't worried, and maybe none of this matters. It is critical, however, that Williams have a good preseason and that he take over a starting job on a young front line. He's the centerpiece of an impressive five-man recruiting class that will be charged with keeping the program in the upper half of the league. Swingmen Trent Strickland and Richard Joyce and forward Chris Ellis will get important minutes in their first season in the program.

X FACTOR: Jamaal Levy is as skinny as a beanpole, but if he can hit the weights and bang a little, he'll ease things on Danelius and Williams. Levy is the first player off the bench when foul trouble and fatigue dent the front line, and even though there are new guys in the fold, his opportunity to contribute still is there. Levy was a top 100 recruit out of high school, after all. —*R.D.*

Demon Deacons Data

Coach: Skip Prosser (21-13, 1 year, 186-91 overall, 9 years; 2-6 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Jeff Battle (1 year), Dino Gaudio (1), Chris Mack (1).
2001-2002 record: 23-11, ACC: 9-7/3rd. Lost to Oregon in NCAA Midwest second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 29.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.
Website: www.wakeforestsports.com
Home court: Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum (14,665).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
13	**F**	**Vytas Danelius**	**6-8/232**	**So.**	**6.6**	**4.2**	**0.4**	**56.6**	**72.4**	**0.0**
4	**G**	**Taron Downey**	**6-0/181**	**So.**	**4.7**	**1.4**	**1.9**	**44.2**	**73.9**	**40.8**
0	F	Chris Ellis	6-6/265	Fr.	Averaged 15 ppg, 12 rpg, 3.5 blks as a Sr.					
1	**G**	**Justin Gray**	**6-2/180**	**Fr.**	**Should get time at both guard spots.**					
5	**F**	**Josh Howard***	**6-6/203**	**Sr.**	**13.9**	**7.7**	**2.1**	**50.4**	**65.7**	**32.9**
23	G/F	Richard Joyce	6-5/211	Fr.	Will provide depth as a swingman.					
33	G	Steve Lepore	6-5/202	Sr.	4.5	2.5	0.9	38.1	66.7	30.5
10	F	Jamaal Levy	6-8/180	So.	2.7	2.0	0.5	40.6	56.8	15.8
53	C	Dshamal Schoetz	7-0/256	Jr.	Missed last season because of injury.					
32	G	Trent Strickland	6-5/195	Fr.	Scorer who also has good rep on defense.					
31	**C**	**Eric Williams**	**6-9/285**	**Fr.**	**Big man saddled with big expectations.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Craig Dawson*	6-5/205	12.4	2.7	2.9	44.8	70.0	44.1
G	Broderick Hicks*	6-1/171	9.6	2.1	3.2	41.1	72.5	32.0
G	Ervin Muray	6-5/189	1.2	1.3	1.8	27.3	60.9	14.3
F	Antwan Scott*	6-8/197	10.0	4.7	0.6	55.9	70.2	40.0
F	Darius Songaila*	6-9/245	17.9	8.1	2.6	52.3	85.4	37.5

Schedule

N27	Yale	D28	North Carolina A&T	J23	at Virginia	F16	at Maryland
D1	Temple	D30	Bethune-Cookman	J26	Florida State	F20	at Georgia Tech
D4	at Wisconsin	J4	at Richmond	J28	at Clemson	F23	Virginia
D15	SMU	J7	Elon	F2	at North Carolina	F26	at Florida State
D18	So. Carolina State	J12	at Duke	F6	NC State	M1	Clemson
D21	St. John's	J15	Maryland	F9	at Marquette	M5	North Carolina
		J19	Georgia Tech	F13	Duke	M8	at NC State

8. Clemson

National Rank 85

WHAT WE LIKE: Edward Scott and Chris Hobbs are two of the ACC's top four top returning scorers. The Tigers also have Ray Henderson, the ACC's No. 2 returning rebounder. Scott, a senior point guard, is one of the most underrated players in the conference. He finished second behind ACC leader Steve Blake in assists without near the supporting cast. Scott also was among a handful of ACC players who scored 30 points in a game (he did it twice). The Tigers have high hopes for sophomore Chey Christie, whose playing time was limited last season behind Jamar McKnight and Tony Stockman.

WHAT SCARES US: After an 11-5 start, the Tigers lost 12 of their last 14 games last season, nearly costing coach Larry Shyatt his job. So Scott, Hobbs, Henderson and Co. are hardly proven winners, and now they're without Stockman, who transferred to Ohio State. Stockman was erratic, but he also would have been the team's top returning scorer. Although Littlejohn Coliseum hasn't provided a huge home-court advantage in recent years, it is within walking distance for Clemson students. It will be interesting to see how many of them make the 20-minute drive to Anderson, S.C., where the Tigers will play in November and December while Littlejohn is being renovated.

X FACTOR: It went largely unnoticed over the summer when Clemson announced the signing of 21-year-old Ori Ichaki, a 6-5 wing player who has been a fixture on the Israeli National Team. Ochaki's age and international experience might attract the attention of the NCAA and delay his college debut, but if he can match Stockman's range and play more under control, it could be a net gain for the Tigers. A winning season is within reach and could score points for Shyatt with new Clemson athletic director Terry Don Phillips. —*D.D.*

Tigers Data

Coach: Larry Shyatt (55-71, 4 years; 74-80 overall, 5 years).
Assistant coaches: Darren Tillis (4 years), Matt Driscol (4), Bobby Hussey (2).
2001-2002 record: 13-17. ACC: 4-12/9th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 73.
Last league title: 1990.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Clemson, S.C.
Website: www.clemsontigers.com
Home courts: Civic Center of Anderson (5,200) and Littlejohn Coliseum (10,980).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
33	F	Akin Akinbala	6-9/210	Fr.	Nigeria native gives team height.					
4	C	Steve Allen	6-10/245	So.	1.2	0.7	0.0	50.0	33.3	—
12	F	Olu Babalola	6-6/245	So.	1.3	1.9	0.3	27.5	46.7	14.3
1	F	Julian Betko	6-5/190	Fr.	Made 58 percent of 3-pointers as senior.					
14	G	**Chey Christie**	6-4/170	So.	5.3	1.2	1.0	36.4	61.3	18.0
45	G	Jermel Douglas	6-3/175	Sr.	1.4	0.5	.01	66.7	100.0	33.3
5	F	**Sharrod Ford**	6-9/220	So.	4.5	3.6	0.1	60.6	45.7	—
21	F/C	**Ray Henderson***	6-8/255	Sr.	8.1	8.8	0.3	54.6	62.9	—
43	F	**Chris Hobbs***	6-7/265	Jr.	11.6	6.1	0.5	54.1	62.3	—
15	F	Ori Ichaki	6-5/195	Fr.	Member of Israeli national teams.					
3	F	Thomas Nagys	6-10/235	Sr.	4.9	4.5	0.5	46.7	67.4	13.3
22	G	Shawan Robinson	6-2/170	Fr.	Was PG for NC state runner-up H.S. team.					
10	G	**Edward Scott***	6-0/190	Sr.	11.9	4.9	7.9	40.5	67.4	30.6

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Jamar McKnight*	6-5/195	12.5	4.2	1.1	46.1	75.0	37.5
G	Tony Stockman*	6-1/165	Transferred to Ohio State.					
G/F	Dwon Clifton	6-4/195	Transferred to UNC Greensboro.					

Schedule

N24	Wofford*	D22	Cincinnati*	J25	Maryland	F22	Florida State
N27	High Point**	D28	Liberty*	J28	Wake Forest	F25	at Maryland
D3	Penn State*	D31	Coastal Carolina*	F2	at NC State	M1	at Wake Forest
D7	Maine*	J5	Duke	F5	Georgia Tech	M5	NC State
D14	Gardner Webb*	J11	Morris Brown	F9	at Duke	M8	at Georgia Tech
D19	Winthrop*	J14	at North Carolina	F12	at South Carolina	*at Anderson, S.C.	
		J18	Virginia	F15	North Carolina	**at Greensboro, N.C.	
		J21	at Florida State	F18	at Virginia		

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

TSNumber: 2

Wake Forest small forward Josh Howard's ACC rank on the offensive boards last season, as well as his rank in team scoring. The Demon Deacons are touting Howard, one of the game's most versatile players, as an All-American candidate. He racked up 30 blocks last season, many as opponents attempted 3-pointers. Now the team hopes he can increase his 3-point scoring as well.

9. Florida State

National Rank 110

WHAT WE LIKE: In his last college stop, Leonard Hamilton took another previously downtrodden program, the University of Miami, and gave it respectability. Moreover, he enjoyed more recruiting success in Florida than the Seminoles have had in recent seasons. In time, he should attract the kind of talent that made FSU competitive under former coach Pat Kennedy in its early years in the ACC. Although Hamilton's vow to play more of an uptempo style may have contributed to the exit of 350-pound Nigel Dixon, a player such as 6-7 swingman Anthony Richardson should benefit. Richardson, a former McDonald's All-American, was given late approval by the NCAA Clearinghouse and played in 28 games last season. He should benefit from increased stability.

WHAT SCARES US: The roster has been gutted. The team's two best players and top scorers last season were departed seniors Monte Cummings and Delvon Arrington. Third-leading scorer Antwuan Dixon completed his eligibility, and Dixon and J.D. Bracy transferred. Arrington's backup at point guard was a walk-on. Mike Mathews and Trevor Harvey both made multiple starts at center; Mathews, with 34 blocked shots, was among the ACC leaders in that category. However, if they couldn't beat out Dixon, they scarcely qualify as impact players.

X FACTOR: When forward Michael Joiner was named to the ACC All-Freshman team in 2001, reporters couldn't wait to write about the native North Carolinian who had escaped the clutches of the ACC's North Carolina schools. Joiner had the kind of strength and no-frills game that made him a lock for a productive college career. But he disappeared as a sophomore, averaging just 7.8 points and 4.7 assists per game. A re-emergence by Joiner would make Hamilton's first season a lot less painful. —*D.D.*

Seminoles Data

Coach: Leonard Hamilton (1st year; 200-210 overall, 14 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Stan Jones (1st year), Mike Jaskulski (1st), Tony Sheals (1st).
2001-2002 record: 12-17. ACC: 4-12/T7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 167.
Last league title: 1991 (Metro).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Tallahassee, Fla.
Website: www.seminoles.com
Home court: Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center (12,500).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Benson Callier	6-5/200	Fr.	Has played one year of organized ball.					
	G	Todd Galloway	6-0/165	Fr.	PG averaged 25 ppg, 8 apg as H.S. senior.					
15	**C**	**Trevor Harvey**	**6-11/230**	**Sr.**	**4.2**	**3.1**	**0.1**	**54.8**	**53.1**	**—**
23	G	Marcell Haywood	5-11/180	Sr.	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.0	60.0	—
	G	**Nate Johnson**	**6-2/185**	**Jr.**	**Moberly (Mo.) CC transfer could step in at PG.**					
1	**F**	**Michael Joiner***	**6-7/215**	**Jr.**	**7.8**	**4.7**	**1.4**	**39.9**	**68.6**	**40.3**
33	F/C	Mike Mathews	6-10/230	Sr.	3.7	2.3	0.1	48.8	53.3	—
5	G	Adrian McPherson	6-4/185	So.	1.7	0.0	0.0	50.0	100.0	100.0
	G	**Tim Pickett**	**6-4/200**	**Jr.**	**Transfer averaged 21 ppg at Indian River CC.**					
54	**F**	**Anthony Richardson**	**6-7/190**	**So.**	**7.2**	**3.6**	**1.0**	**33.2**	**64.4**	**29.6**
	F	Al Thornton	6-8/220	Fr.	Lanky inside-outside threat hit 27 ppg as Sr.					
51	F	Adam Waleskowski	6-8/230	So.	2.9	2.4	0.3	30.9	80.6	18.2
20	G/F	Andrew Wilson	6-6/205	So.	Redshirted last season.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Delvon Arrington*	5-11/166	11.3	3.9	6.3	40.7	73.8	36.8
G	J.D. Bracy	6-4/200	Transferred to Seminole Community College.					
G	Monte Cummings*	6-4/179	15.5	3.8	1.7	52.8	76.3	36.1
F	Antwuan Dixon*	6-5/191	9.0	4.2	0.8	44.2	69.0	32.8
C	Nigel Dixon*	6-10/350	Transferred to Western Kentucky.					

Schedule

N24	Savannah State	D18	Stetson	J18	NC State
N27	Mercer	D22	North Carolina	J21	Clemson
D2	Iowa	D28-30	Fiesta Bowl Cl.	J26	at Wake Forest
D6	Florida	J4	at Virginia Tech	J29	at Virginia
D8	Miami (Fla.)	J6	Texas A&M-C.C.	F2	Duke
D15	Birm. Southern	J11	at Maryland	F8	at North Carolina
		J14	at Georgia Tech	F12	Maryland
				F15	Georgia Tech
				F18	at NC State
				F22	at Clemson
				F26	Wake Forest
				M1	Virginia
				M6	at Duke

Rank 5

By Ken Davis, Hartford Courant

Big East

Before last season, conference commissioner Mike Tranghese said he never had seen so much balance in the Big East. Sure enough, nine of the 14 teams finished .500 or better in conference play. This year the predictions are at least easier at the top. Connecticut, despite Caron Butler's premature departure to the NBA, is favored in the East. Pittsburgh, with point guard Brandin Knight and four other starters returning, should repeat in the West.

But after that, there should be a scramble. In the East, Villanova is a team to watch. Boston College has four starters back, including guard Troy Bell. St. John's has offensive help for Marcus Hatten. Miami could threaten if Darius Rice becomes a consistent force.

In the West, Syracuse, Notre Dame and Georgetown are worthy of contending. Notre Dame features point guard sensation Chris Thomas. Syracuse must replace Preston Shumpert and DeShaun Williams, but freshmen Carmelo Anthony and Billy Edelin are more than capable. Georgetown will be a factor with big Mike Sweetney doing the dirty work on the blocks.

ASCENDING: Villanova. Coach Jay Wright did a good job in his first season at Villanova, as the Wildcats were in the mix for an NCAA bid before settling for the NIT. But the best is yet to come, as Wright welcomes one of the best recruiting classes in Big East history to go along with veterans Ricky Wright and Gary Buchanan. Of the newcomers, look for forward/center Jason Fraser to make the biggest splash. Wright will try to downplay his freshmen, but they could allow the Wildcats to give UConn a pretty good run in the East.

DESCENDING: West Virginia. None of this is new coach John Beilein's fault. Remember that, Mountaineer fans. The program is experiencing a fallout from a series of heavy hits that took place before he was hired. It began when the team wouldn't play together last season. Coach Gale Catlett retired, and there was an embarrassing process to hire a replacement. In the process, speculation arose the program would be hit with NCAA sanctions. Now, point guard Jonathan Hargett, who was expected to lead a program revival, has been released from the team. Beilein, who arrives after five seasons at Richmond, has a history of success, but it won't come quickly in Morgantown.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Caron Butler, Connecticut. Had Butler returned for his junior season, the Huskies might have been the preseason No. 1 choice nationally. Butler could score inside or out, defend and rebound. Without Butler anchoring things inside, the Huskies will use a three-guard lineup—Taliek Brown, Tony Robertson and Ben Gordon. That will make them faster but not better.

2. Ryan Humphrey, Notre Dame. Humphrey led the conference in rebounding and was a double-double candidate each game. He gave guards Thomas and Matt Carroll a low-post presence to play off of. Freshman Torin Francis is promising, but he'll need time to match Humphrey's contributions.

3. John Linehan, Providence. Linehan, who finished his career as the all-time NCAA leader in steals, disrupted opponents' game plans and frustrated whomever he was assigned to guard. Sheiku Kabba takes over at the point, but he may share time with freshman Donnie McGrath.

PREDICTIONS

East
1. Connecticut*
2. Villanova*
3. Boston College
4. St. John's
5. Miami
6. Providence
7. Virginia Tech

West
1. Pittsburgh*
2. Syracuse*
3. Notre Dame*
4. Georgetown*
5. Rutgers
6. Seton Hall
7. West Virginia

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brandin Knight, Pittsburgh	6-0	183	Sr.
G	Troy Bell, Boston College	6-1	181	Sr.
F	Darius Rice, Miami	6-10	215	Jr.
F	Mike Sweetney, Georgetown	6-8	260	Jr.
F/C	Emeka Okafor, Connecticut	6-9	240	So.

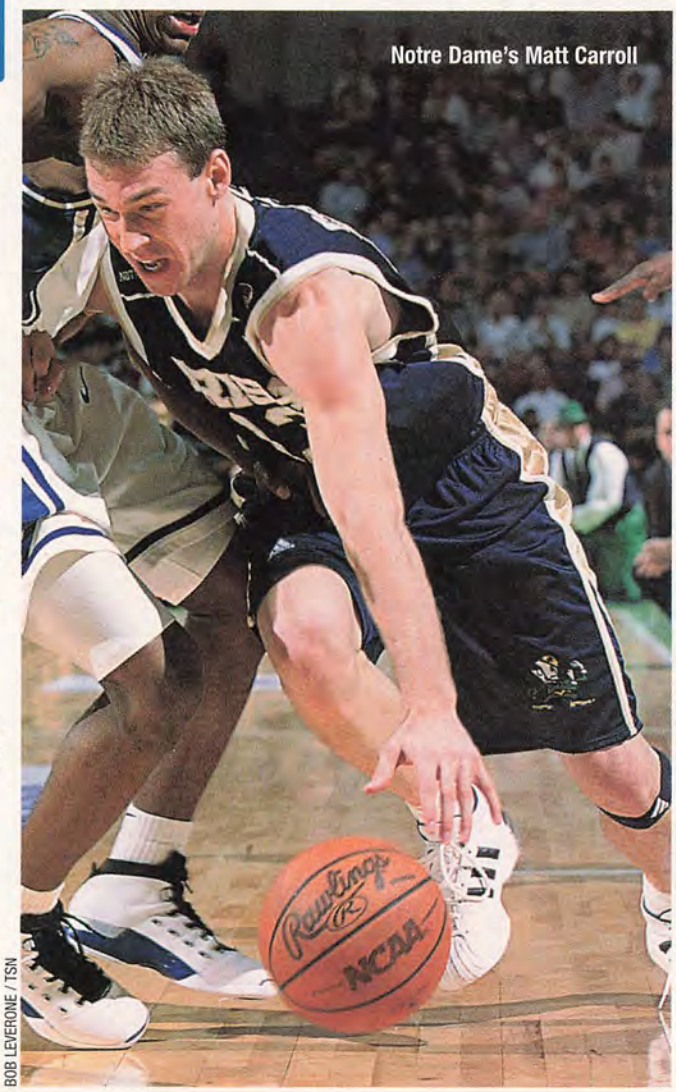
Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Marcus Hatten, St. John's	6-1	165	Sr.
G	Ben Gordon, Connecticut	6-2	185	So.
G	Chris Thomas, Notre Dame	6-1	175	So.
F	Ricky Wright, Villanova	6-7	225	Sr.
F	James Jones, Miami	6-8	225	Sr.

Player of the Year
Brandin Knight, Pittsburgh

Newcomer of the Year
Carmelo Anthony, F, Syracuse

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Troy Bell, Boston College
Best playmaker: Brandin Knight, Pittsburgh
Best dunker: Darius Rice, Miami
Best NBA prospect: C. Anthony, Syracuse
Most likely to blossom: Ben Gordon, Conn.
Best rebounder: Mike Sweetney, Georgetown
Best defender: Emeka Okafor, Connecticut
Best game coach: Jim Calhoun, Connecticut
Most versatile: Ryan Sidney, Boston College
Will take a charge: Julius Page, Pittsburgh



Notre Dame's Matt Carroll

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Matt Carroll, Notre Dame. It's hard to be underrated in a conference that names seven players to its first team and "honors" 23 players on its first three teams and honorable mention squad. But Carroll was overlooked last year on an Irish team that featured Thomas, Humphrey and David Graves. Carroll averaged 14.1 points and 4.8 rebounds—not bad for the No. 4 option. With Graves gone, Carroll's precision from long range (41.2 percent on 3-point attempts) will be key.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Craig Esherick, Georgetown. The seat isn't real hot yet, but it could get that way if the Hoyas miss the NCAAs again with a player the caliber of Sweetney, who should contend for national honors and be a candidate for Big East Player of the Year.

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Villanova: One of nation's best, with Jason Fraser, Allan Ray, Curtis Sumpter.

2. Syracuse: F Carmelo Anthony could be one of the top Orangemen ever.

3. Connecticut: Wings Rashad Anderson and Denham Brown will help right away.

4. Virginia Tech: Ricky Stokes' best class, led by F Fabian Davis, G Markus Sailes.

5. St. John's: PG Elijah Ingram is exactly what the Red Storm needs.

6. Miami: Armondo Surratt and Robert Hite will see time at point guard.

7. Notre Dame: McDonald's All-American Torin Francis helps frontline.

8. Georgetown: Brandon Bowman and Ashanti Cook offer perimeter help.

9. Seton Hall: Fs Kelly Whitney and J.R. Morris add scoring punch.

10. Boston College: Louis Hinnant could earn minutes in loaded backcourt.

11. Providence: PG Donnie McGrath will help replace John Linehan.

12. Rutgers: Cortez Davis should offer immediate frontline help.

13. Pittsburgh: Ed Turner and Levon Kendall could help up front.

14. West Virginia: With the coaching change, it was a tough year to recruit.

BEST BETS: Miami players won't be able to find the words to explain their joy in playing in the new on-campus Convocation Center after calling off-campus Miami Arena their home. … Villanova's freshman class will get a lot of national attention and Wright will become a household name to basketball fans outside Philadelphia. … Pittsburgh coach Ben Howland will be mentioned as a candidate for every job opening on the West Coast. … UConn's Emeka Okafor will graduate after his sophomore season and then pursue a master's degree. Okafor will be the focus of numerous network TV features focusing on his academic brilliance. **TSN**

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Troy Bell	Boston College	21.6
Marcus Hatten	St. John's	20.1
Mike Sweetney	Georgetown	19.0
Gary Buchanan	Villanova	17.8
Andre Barrett	Seton Hall	16.9

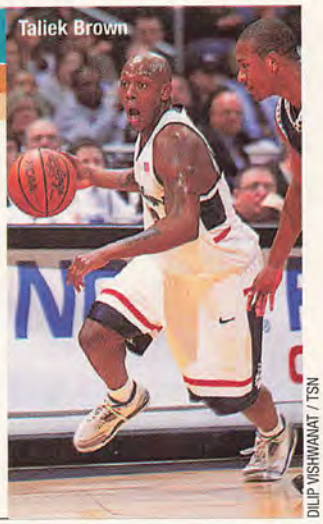
Name	School	RPG
Mike Sweetney	Georgetown	10.0
Emeka Okafor	Connecticut	9.0
Ricky Wright	Villanova	8.0
Ryan Gomes	Providence	7.8
Ryan Sidney	Boston College	7.8

Name	School	APG
Chris Thomas	Notre Dame	7.6
Brandin Knight	Pittsburgh	7.2
Taliek Brown	Connecticut	5.1
Andre Barrett	Seton Hall	5.0
Marcus Hatten	St. John's	4.5

Name	School	FG%
Mike Sweetney	Georgetown	56.7
Ryan Gomes	Providence	55.9
Ricky Wright	Villanova	52.8
Matt Carroll	Notre Dame	46.9
Ryan Sidney	Boston College	44.2

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
East								
Connecticut	13	3	27	7	13	2	14	5
Miami	10	6	24	8	14	2	10	6
St. John's	9	7	20	12	14	1	6	11
Boston College	8	8	20	12	11	5	9	7
Villanova	7	9	19	13	15	4	4	9
Providence	6	10	15	16	11	5	4	11
Virginia Tech	4	12	10	18	9	6	1	12
West								
Pittsburgh	13	3	29	6	16	1	13	5
Notre Dame	10	6	22	11	9	4	13	7
Georgetown	9	7	19	11	12	5	7	6
Syracuse	9	7	23	13	15	4	8	9
Rutgers	8	8	18	13	15	2	3	11
Seton Hall	5	11	12	18	6	7	6	11
West Virginia	1	15	8	20	5	8	3	12


Taliek Brown

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Team stats

Total Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Georgetown	30	44.7	72.5	34.7	41.7	16.1	10.1	6.4	16.0	81.1
Notre Dame	33	45.9	70.9	37.9	40.9	19.1	7.8	4.9	13.2	78.8
Connecticut	34	48.3	69.6	39.4	40.6	14.5	7.5	6.9	16.0	77.8
Miami	32	43.0	77.1	34.5	36.7	16.4	8.9	5.9	14.4	74.8
Boston College	32	41.9	69.6	33.7	37.2	13.5	8.1	3.3	14.0	73.6
West Virginia	28	43.0	68.1	33.0	38.9	14.1	8.4	3.7	17.7	73.0
Syracuse	36	44.6	65.0	33.3	36.8	15.3	10.9	5.6	15.1	72.3
Pittsburgh	35	47.0	60.5	32.3	38.4	16.9	6.7	4.5	14.2	72.3
Providence	31	40.6	67.7	31.5	34.6	15.0	11.0	4.1	16.0	71.4
Villanova	32	46.2	74.2	39.2	38.1	14.3	6.7	3.9	18.2	70.8
Seton Hall	30	39.7	68.6	34.2	38.2	13.1	8.1	3.8	15.1	70.5
St. John's	32	40.1	67.0	28.7	37.7	11.5	10.1	3.8	15.1	70.3
Virginia Tech	28	42.6	68.5	34.4	39.8	12.7	6.5	5.0	19.1	69.4
Rutgers	31	40.4	58.3	31.7	39.5	13.5	10.5	6.9	17.0	67.6

Total Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Pittsburgh	35	39.5	69.5	28.8	32.0	12.0	5.3	3.5	14.9	60.9
Rutgers	31	39.5	66.7	30.1	40.4	12.9	9.2	4.9	18.5	66.0
Villanova	32	39.2	69.4	33.2	32.6	13.4	9.4	3.5	14.2	66.3
Syracuse	36	39.9	68.2	31.4	38.0	14.0	8.1	2.6	18.3	66.8
Miami	32	40.0	67.5	30.9	38.5	12.5	7.4	3.8	17.3	67.4
Notre Dame	33	39.7	66.6	33.3	37.7	14.2	7.2	3.6	13.9	68.4
St. John's	32	42.2	72.1	33.1	37.6	13.3	7.2	4.2	18.6	68.8
Connecticut	34	38.0	71.2	32.3	36.0	13.6	6.6	4.1	14.6	69.2
Providence	31	44.0	69.0	32.2	38.0	13.5	8.0	3.9	20.2	69.7
Georgetown	30	39.5	69.4	32.2	38.2	14.3	8.7	3.9	17.6	70.4
Boston College	32	42.5	65.8	33.0	37.8	12.8	7.4	3.8	16.1	70.5
Seton Hall	30	42.2	67.9	31.8	40.5	13.8	8.1	3.4	16.4	70.8
Virginia Tech	28	41.4	69.2	34.8	33.1	13.5	8.5	3.9	14.0	70.8
West Virginia	28	44.9	67.4	34.0	38.2	15.2	10.5	4.0	16.0	78.9

National Rank 20

1. Connecticut

WHAT WE LIKE: What if forward Caron Butler had stayed in school just one more year? The answer is obvious: UConn would be a consensus Final Four pick. But that sort of speculation is just foolishn. Butler matured enough as a player by the end of his sophomore season to take his game to the next level, and no one—with the possible exception of Maryland's Juan Dixon—had a better NCAA Tournament. How good will the Huskies be without him?

Still good enough to win their division and return to the NCAA Tournament without much difficulty, but not good enough to start the season with a realistic shot at the Final Four. Forward Johnnie Selvie must also be replaced along the front line, but forward/center Emeka Okafor and guards Taliek Brown and Tony Robertson return to the starting lineup. Okafor burst onto the scene last year with his incredible shot-blocking ability. He spent the summer building his body and working on his offensive moves. Coach Jim Calhoun and his staff recruited three talented freshmen who could move into the spots vacated by Butler and Selvie; Denham Brown, Hilton Armstrong and Marcus White are all capable of contributing quickly.

WHAT SCARES US: Chemistry is so important to Calhoun's teams, and it can change drastically from year to year. This team has enough veterans to understand the importance of a good offseason and a solid period of captains' practices before October workouts begin. Two years ago, the Huskies didn't have a leader on the floor or in the locker room, and the results were disastrous—at least by the high standards set in Storrs from year to year. Butler embraced his role as the leader last year, and the Huskies liked one another and were adored by their fans for pulling out numerous close victories. The Huskies never gave up and gained confidence as the season went along. If point guard Brown takes over as the voice in the locker room, it will help the offense on the floor. And don't underestimate the leadership qualities of guard Ben Gordon, who plays with the type of fire Calhoun loves. There is no reason this team should revert to the unhappiness of two years ago, but it's never easy to tell. Four talented freshmen are arriving in Storrs, and they will want playing time.

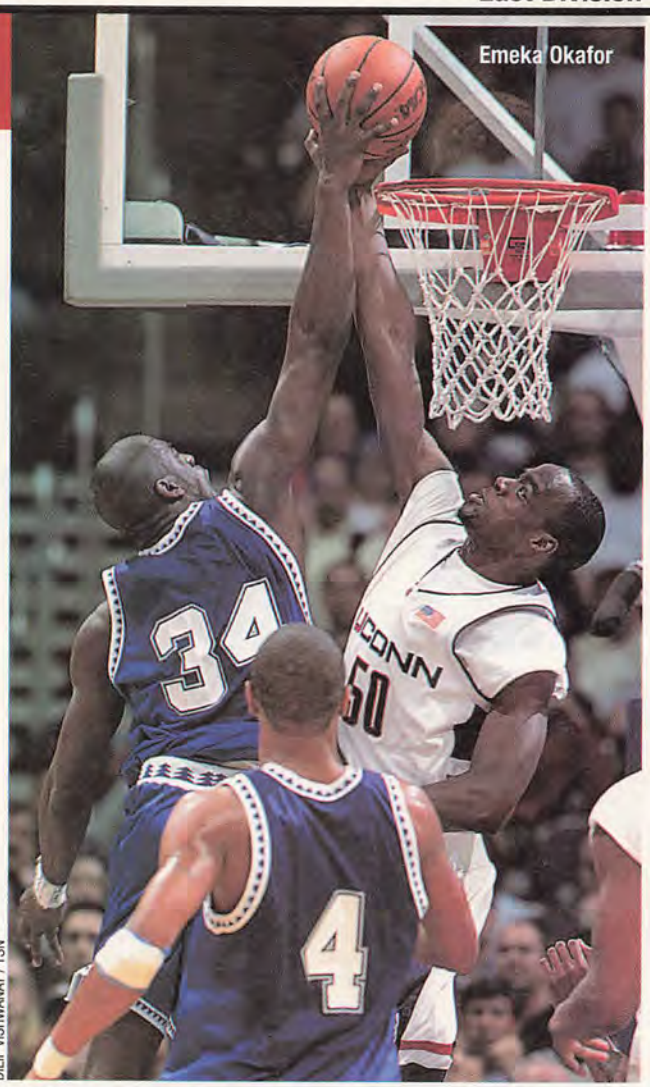
X FACTOR: How well will Okafor and Justin Brown fare in the post? The initial plan is for Okafor to slide over to power forward to make room for Brown as the starting center. That gives the Huskies plenty of size, but neither is polished offensively. If they aren't respected offensively, that will make things tougher on UConn's outstanding perimeter players. Okafor averaged 7.9 points without the benefit of a true low-post offensive game. If he can improve his footwork and pick up some offensive moves, his worth will double. Justin Brown played sparingly last year, so he's a bit of a mystery. If both raise their game to another level, UConn could be a Final Four contender again. If they fail to develop offensively, that will be especially bad because the team doesn't have a fallback at power forward if Okafor has to move back to center.

Schedule

N23	Quinnipiac
N25	George Washington
D1	at Vanderbilt
D3	Sacred Heart
D7	Wagner
D10	Massachusetts
D21	UNC Asheville
D28	Central Conn. State
J2	St. Bonaventure
J7	at Oklahoma
J11	Miami
J14	Virginia Tech
J18	at North Carolina
J20	at Miami
J25	Villanova
J27	at St. John's
F1	Boston College
F5	at Virginia Tech
F8	at Providence
F10	Syracuse
F15	at Villanova
F18	Rutgers
F22	St. John's
F24	at Notre Dame
M2	at Pittsburgh
M5	Providence
M8	at Boston College

A BIG EAST COACH SAYS...

Ben Gordon gets better every day. Denham Brown is really explosive. They've got enough players. Leadership is an issue, and a go-to big guy. Emeka Okafor is a shot blocker. It's not like you can throw it to him every time. Justin Brown is a sleeper. I don't think Jim Calhoun likes him, but he's big, a decent shooter, a good passer. Justin's problem is confidence. If he gets confidence, (he and Okafor) can play together.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Huskies Data

Coach: Jim Calhoun (376-149, 16 years; 624-286 overall, 30 years; 27-13 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA title in 1999).
Assistant coaches: Tom Moore (8 years), George Blaney (1), Clyde Vaughan (1st).
2000-2001 record: 27-7. Big East East: 13-3/1st. Lost to Maryland in NCAA East finals.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Storrs, Conn.
Website: www.uconnhuskies.com
Home court: Gampel Pavilion (10,027), Hartford Civic Center (16,294).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
31	G/F	Rashad Anderson	6-4/190	Fr.	Good shooter with excellent range.					
11	F/C	Hilton Armstrong	6-10/210	Fr.	Big man will help team's inside game.					
33	F	Denham Brown	6-5/220	Fr.	Toronto native could fill in for Butler.					
20	**C**	**Justin Brown**	**7-0/245**	**Sr.**	**1.2**	**1.9**	**0.2**	**42.9**	**53.3**	**—**
12	**G**	**Taliek Brown**	**6-1/185**	**Jr.**	**9.2**	**3.3**	**5.1**	**45.6**	**65.0**	**30.3**
4	**G**	**Ben Gordon***	**6-2/185**	**So.**	**12.6**	**2.7**	**3.1**	**44.4**	**72.6**	**41.3**
25	F	Mike Hayes	6-8/215	Sr.	1.2	1.5	0.1	44.0	66.7	—
21	F	Scott Hazelton	6-8/210	So.	2.4	1.9	0.1	40.5	78.9	8.3
50	**F/C**	**Emeka Okafor***	**6-9/240**	**So.**	**7.9**	**9.0**	**0.8**	**59.0**	**62.0**	**—**
32	**G**	**Tony Robertson***	**6-2/200**	**So.**	**11.3**	**2.3**	**1.7**	**49.8**	**77.9**	**43.6**
30	G/F	Shamon Tooles	6-5/210	Jr.	0.9	0.8	0.0	44.4	90.0	—
23	F	Marcus White	6-8/215	Fr.	Ranked among top 100 preps in nation.					
5	G	Chad Wise	6-5/190	So.	1.0	0.4	0.3	41.7	—	25.0
35	G	Mike Woodward	6-5/215	Sr.	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	—	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Caron Butler*	6-7/235	20.3	7.5	3.0	47.7	73.5	38.2
F	Johnnie Selvie*	6-7/235	11.4	6.0	0.4	51.0	57.9	—

2. Villanova

National Rank 40

WHAT WE LIKE: The Wildcats should be the most exciting team to watch in the Big East. When Jay Wright got the coaching job in 2001, it was easy to predict he'd bring his recruiting magic. Wright didn't waste any time, reeling in one of the best 2002 classes in the nation, led by Jason Fraser, Allan Ray, Curtis Sumpter and Randy Foye. Fraser, a 6-9 shot blocker who runs the floor with amazing ease, should fill the spot at center vacated by Brooks Sales. Sumpter will challenge for a forward spot with his ability to play in the open floor. Add to this crop of talent senior shooting guard Gary Buchanan and senior power forward Ricky Wright, and it's easy to see why the Wildcats are so optimistic.

WHAT SCARES US: Wright must blend youth and experience. That's not such a terrible task considering the wealth of talent, but whenever a highly rated recruiting class arrives, there's the potential for jealousy and dissent among the old and new players. Sales was the leader of last year's team; that responsibility now falls on Buchanan, Wright and senior small forward Andrew Sullivan. The freshmen must be respectful but not too deferential.

X FACTOR: The Villanova program made great strides last season under Wright, but one thing that didn't change from the Steve Lappas administration was the tendency to commit turnovers. The Wildcats set school records for turnovers each of the last two seasons, and that's not something to take pride in. Last season the Wildcats committed 581 turnovers, easily the most in the conference. Obviously, the issue here is point guard play. Foye was recruited to amend the situation, and coaches who have scouted him rave about his raw ability. Whether he can tame the Wildcats' tendency toward mistakes may decide if the team returns to the NCAA Tournament.

Wildcats Data

Coach: Jay Wright (19-13, 1 year; 141-98 overall, 8 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Brett Gunning (1 year), Joe Jones (5), Fred Hill Jr. (1).
2001-2002 record: 19-13. Big East East: 7-9/5th. Lost to Temple in NIT quarterfinals.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 64.
Last league title: 1997 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Philadelphia.
Website: www.villanova.com
Home court: The Pavilion (6,500), First Union Center (21,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
44	F	Marcus Austin	6-9/231	So.	1.9	1.8	0.5	37.3	53.6	—
1	F	Andreas Bloch	6-8/225	Jr.	0.5	0.3	0.1	25.0	—	27.3
22	**G**	**Gary Buchanan***	**6-3/196**	**Sr.**	**17.8**	**4.4**	**2.4**	**42.4**	**91.1**	**42.3**
21	F/C	Chris Charles	7-0/215	So.	1.7	2.2	0.2	48.4	46.7	—
25	G	Michael Claxton	6-2/175	Fr.	Brother of NBA guard Speedy Claxton.					
13	G	Baker Dunleavy	6-5/195	Fr.	Son of former NBA coach Mike Dunleavy.					
15	G	Randy Foye	6-3/185	Fr.	New Jersey H.S. player of the year.					
20	**F/C**	**Jason Fraser**	**6-9/225**	**Fr.**	**McDonald's All-American is gifted defender.**					
10	G	Tom Grace	6-0/150	Jr.	0.3	0.2	0.1	50.0	—	50.0
14	G	Allan Ray	6-2/195	Fr.	H.S. Sr. year hindered by stress fracture (foot).					
4	G	Lou Ruskey	6-0/180	Sr.	0.3	0.2	0.1	100.0	—	100.0
3	**G**	**Derrick Snowden***	**6-0/165**	**Jr.**	**10.4**	**2.5**	**3.9**	**46.1**	**70.6**	**32.9**
12	**F**	**Andrew Sullivan***	**6-7/205**	**Sr.**	**5.7**	**4.9**	**1.3**	**52.9**	**68.0**	**40.0**
34	F	Curtis Sumpter	6-7/205	Fr.	Athleticism will get him playing time.					
5	**F**	**Ricky Wright***	**6-7/225**	**Sr.**	**13.7**	**8.0**	**1.8**	**52.8**	**71.9**	**—**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Reggie Bryant	6-3/215	9.1	2.3	1.8	39.0	72.5	38.6
G	B.J. Johnson	6-3/193	0.8	0.5	0.2	22.2	75.0	0.0
F/C	Brooks Sales*	6-10/245	10.4	9.1	2.4	53.8	75.2	50.0

Schedule

N15 Marquette*
N22 Drexel
N28-30 Gr. Alaska S.O.
D7 at La Salle
D10 Pennsylvania
D13 Md.-Baltimore Co.
D22 at Dayton
D27 Binghamton
D31 Temple
J5 at Memphis
J8 Virginia Tech
J11 Providence
J15 at St. John's
J18 at Rutgers
J22 Boston College
J25 at Connecticut
F1 West Virginia
F3 at St. Joseph's
J8 at Miami
J11 St. John's
J15 Connecticut
J17 at Seton Hall
J22 at Providence
J25 Miami
M1 at Virginia Tech
M3 at Boston College
M9 Pittsburgh
*at New York City

3. Boston College

National Rank 57

WHAT WE LIKE: Troy Bell, Ryan Sidney, Uka Agbai and Nate Doornekamp. They are back and will start for coach Al Skinner as the Eagles shoot for their third consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance. With 77.7 percent of the scoring and 80.1 percent of the rebounding back from last season, Skinner doesn't have to search for production at the start of the season. He just needs to take this high-functioning unit and make it better—and hungrier. The four returning starters have combined for 245 career starts. Bell leads the way in the backcourt, and Agbai holds down the fort inside. If Sidney becomes more at ease with his starting role and Doornekamp can curb his tendency to get into early foul trouble, the Eagles should be a better team.

WHAT SCARES US: Agbai averaged 6.0 rebounds a game last season. Sidney led the nation in rebounding among players 6-2 and shorter with 7.8 per game. Despite their efforts, the Eagles found themselves near the bottom of the conference in rebounding. Agbai needs help crashing the boards, and not all of it can come from Sidney. Meanwhile, the Eagles can't give up 70 points a game and allow opponents to shoot 43 percent from the floor. If they do, they'll never advance past the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

X FACTOR: Bell was co-Big East Player of the Year as a sophomore. As a junior, he was a first-team All-Big East selection—and yet it seemed like an off season for the talented guard. He led the league with a 21.6 scoring average, but his midseason scoring slump threw the Eagles into a tailspin from which they never recovered. Bell and Sidney need help from the bench. Sophomore Jermaine Watson and freshman Louis Hinnant must give the Eagles quality minutes to help Bell and Sidney return to top form.

Eagles Data

Coach: Al Skinner (79-73, 5 years; 217-199 overall, 14 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Bill Coen (5 years), Ed Cooley (5), Pat Duquette (5).
2001-2002 record: 20-12. Big East East: 8-8/4th. Lost to Texas in NCAA East first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 18.
Last league title: 2001 (East Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Website: www.bceagles.com
Home court: Silvio O. Conte Forum (8,606).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
00	**F**	**Uka Agbai***	**6-8/258**	**Sr.**	**11.9**	**6.0**	**1.1**	**47.4**	**70.7**	**—**
2	**G**	**Troy Bell***	**6-1/181**	**Sr.**	**21.6**	**4.1**	**3.8**	**40.7**	**88.3**	**30.1**
34	**F**	**Andrew Bryant**	**6-7/232**	**So.**	**4.1**	**2.8**	**0.6**	**41.4**	**55.6**	**37.5**
21	G	A. Evans-Miller	6-5/190	Fr.	Comes to team from Brookline, Mass.					
40	G	Adam DeMong	6-2/180	Sr.	0.6	0.0	0.0	50.0	—	50.0
13	**F/C**	**Nate Doornekamp***	**7-0/263**	**So.**	**2.2**	**3.6**	**0.5**	**39.4**	**50.0**	**50.0**
11	G	Louis Hinnant	6-2/175	Fr.	Natural PG avg. 19 ppg, 10 apg as H.S. Sr.					
31	G	Tavio Hobson	6-0/185	Fr.	Comes to team from Seattle, Wash.					
33	F	Johnnie Jackson	6-6/190	Fr.	Solid scorer should challenge Bryant to start.					
5	**G**	**Ryan Sidney***	**6-2/202**	**Jr.**	**13.7**	**7.8**	**4.3**	**44.2**	**50.0**	**36.3**
1	F	Craig Smith	6-7/245	Fr.	Top 50 recruit can produce in the post.					
4	G	Jermaine Watson	6-3/196	So.	3.6	1.8	0.5	44.2	52.5	0.0
12	C	Kirsten Zoellner	7-1/280	So.	2.0	0.3	0.0	50.0	75.0	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Brian Ross	6-8/235	3.6	2.2	0.7	38.5	59.6	35.6
G/F	Kenny Walls*	6-5/194	12.9	4.3	1.8	38.0	73.5	35.1

Schedule

N23 Saint Joseph's
N26 Boston University
D1 at Holy Cross
D4 St. Bonaventure
D7 at Massachusetts
D10 at Iowa State
D15 Stony Brook
D22 Harvard
D28 Kent State
J4 Northeastern
J11 at Syracuse
J13 Providence
J16 at NC State
J19 West Virginia
J22 at Villanova
J25 Notre Dame
J29 at Virginia Tech
F1 at Connecticut
F5 St. John's
F8 at Rutgers
F12 at Providence
F15 Miami (Fla.)
F19 Virginia Tech
M1 at Miami
M3 Villanova
M8 Connecticut

4. St. John's

National Rank 63

WHAT WE LIKE: The idea of even minimal backcourt help for Marcus Hatten should be enough to excite St. John's fans. But there's nothing minimal about Elijah Ingram. The McDonald's All-American, a 5-10 freshman point guard, could make a huge impact playing for the Red Storm in Madison Square Garden. Coach Mike Jarvis isn't likely to hesitate throwing Ingram into the starting lineup. And just think of the possibilities as Hatten is freed to play shooting guard. Hatten did it all for St. John's in his first season after transferring from junior college. He led the Big East with a 22.3-point scoring average in conference games. He averaged 4.5 assists and 3.3 steals while playing out of position at the point. One way or another, Hatten had something to do with just about all 20 of St. John's victories. And now he has help.

WHAT SCARES US: It's the same thing that baffled us last season. How did St. John's win all those games without an offense? It was Hatten, of course. He was a one-man wrecking crew. Jarvis tried endless lineup combinations, with 11 players starting at one time or another, but Hatten and forward Anthony Glover were the only two players who averaged more than 8.0 points. Ingram should bring better role definition to the lineup, but he's not exactly a stable point guard. He can be as unpredictable as Hatten.

X FACTOR: There was a time when Glover attacked the game like one of the top five players in the Big East. But the past two seasons, Glover hasn't intimidated many opponents. He led the team with an average of 6.7 rebounds last season, when he also averaged 10.9 points. Those are decent numbers for a guy who just wants to be known as a good college player, but there was a time when Glover looked like a first-team all-league player. He has come back for a fifth season. Why waste it?

Red Storm Data

Coach: Mike Jarvis (87-44, 4 years; 340-185 overall, 17 years; 7-9 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Kevin Clark (4 years), Mike Jarvis Jr. (4), Dermon Player (1).
2001-2002 record: 20-12. Big East East: 9-7/3rd. Lost to Wisconsin in NCAA East first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 78.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Jamaica, N.Y.
Website: www.redstormsports.com
Home court: Alumni Hall (6,008), Madison Square Garden (19,876).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
25	F	Kyle Cuffe	6-8/210	Jr.	5.6	3.0	0.6	42.9	48.6	37.1
44	C	Mohamed Diakite	6-11/210	Jr.	2.1	1.6	0.1	50.0	76.9	—
00	F	Tim Doyle	6-6/215	Fr.	Avg. 20 ppg, 10 rpg as H.S. Sr.					
22	**F**	**Anthony Glover***	**6-6/225**	**Sr.**	**10.9**	**6.7**	**0.4**	**38.0**	**67.2**	**35.0**
1	**G**	**Marcus Hatten***	**6-1/165**	**Sr.**	**20.1**	**5.3**	**4.5**	**38.3**	**72.4**	**28.1**
12	**G**	**Elijah Ingram**	**5-10/165**	**Fr.**	**If he can play PG, Hatten can move to SG.**					
52	C	Curtis Johnson	7-3/320	Jr.	0.8	1.2	0.0	25.0	75.0	—
4	C	Abe Keita	6-11/235	Sr.	2.4	2.6	0.3	64.3	56.3	—
15	**F**	**Eric King***	**6-6/215**	**So.**	**7.6**	**4.5**	**0.7**	**44.8**	**68.7**	**0.0**
	G	Bruce Price	6-3/190	Fr.	Committed after Daryll Hill deemed ineligible.					
11	G	Jon Scheiman	6-1/185	Sr.	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	75.0	0.0
23	**G**	**Willie Shaw***	**6-6/185**	**Jr.**	**6.8**	**2.3**	**1.0**	**34.4**	**61.3**	**25.2**
2	G	Tristan Smith	6-1/180	So.	1.4	0.9	0.8	36.6	72.7	37.5
14	G	Andre Stanley	6-4/205	Sr.	3.2	2.5	1.7	41.3	47.6	14.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Alpha Bangura	6-4/213	5.6	2.2	0.8	37.6	54.8	0.0
C	Donald Emanuel*	6-9/249	6.1	2.8	1.0	42.9	73.8	36.1
G	Sharif Fordham	6-4/200	5.1	3.5	0.9	46.5	67.3	0.0

Schedule

N26	Stony Brook	D27-28	Holiday Fest.	J25	at Virginia Tech
N30	at Fairfield	J2	Niagara	J27	Connecticut
D7	at Fordham	J4	Seton Hall	F1	Miami
D11	St. Francis (N.Y.)	J7	at Providence	F5	at Boston College
D14	Hofstra	J11	at UCLA	F8	Virginia Tech
D21	at Wake Forest	J15	Villanova	F11	at Villanova
		J18	at Georgetown	F15	Providence
				F18	at Syracuse
				F22	at Connecticut
				F26	Boston College
				M2	Duke
				M6	Rutgers
				M8	at Miami

5. Miami

National Rank 65

WHAT WE LIKE: The Hurricanes struggled to establish themselves when they first joined the Big East, but now Miami basketball is easy to define. Miami has gone to the NCAA Tournament four of the last five seasons, and the Hurricanes set a school record with 24 victories last season. Coach Perry Clark's system has produced a balanced offense and a defense that consistently ranks among the Big East leaders. Miami was one of just four teams that entered the NCAA Tournament with five double-figure scorers. The Hurricanes may have to break away from that mold a bit this season in the absence of swingman John Salmons, center Elton Tyler and guard Marcus Barnes, who was dismissed from the team in August. But Darius Rice is teetering on superstardom; he can handle a heavier load. James Jones, a guy with multiple talents much like Salmons, is waiting in line for even more points.

WHAT SCARES US: Finding replacements for Tyler, Salmons and Barnes won't be easy. Salmons wasn't a first-round NBA draft pick by accident; he was the most versatile player in the Big East the past two seasons, a player who excelled at everything. Michael Simmons averaged 2.3 points and almost 17 minutes as a backup to Salmons last season and should start. Freshmen Armondo Surratt, Ismael N'Diaye, Eric Wilkins and Robert Hite also will compete for backcourt minutes. Tyler's role will be filled by committee.

X FACTOR: One quality that had to be appreciated about the Hurricanes last season was their never-say-die attitude. Miami rallied nine times from second-half deficits to win. That's a reflection of confidence and clutch performances. One of the things that allowed the Hurricanes to be so successful in late-game situations was their free-throw shooting. Miami led the Big East at 77.1 percent overall and 81.8 percent in conference games.

Hurricanes Data

Coach: Perry Clark (40-21, 2 years; 225-166 overall, 13 years; 3-4 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Anthony Anderson (1st year), Greg Gary (2), Brock Kantrow (2).
2001-2002 record: 24-8. Big East East: 10-6/2nd. Lost to Missouri in NCAA West first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 41.
Last league title: 2000 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Coral Gables, Fla.
Website: www.hurricanesports.com
Home court: Miami Arena (15,388), Convocation Center (7,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	**F/C**	**Rafael Berumen**	**6-9/255**	**Sr.**	**2.9**	**2.0**	**0.6**	**56.1**	**56.0**	**100.0**
13	G	Paulo Coelho	6-2/188	Sr.	0.7	0.2	0.3	20.0	100.0	30.0
14	F	Rodrigue Djahue	6-7/265	Jr.	1.7	1.7	0.2	39.3	41.2	50.0
34	F	William Frisby	6-8/233	Jr.	1.5	1.4	0.1	45.7	64.3	0.0
22	G	Robert Hite	6-2/180	Fr.	Named AP D-I All-Ohio co-player of year.					
33	**F**	**James Jones***	**6-8/225**	**Sr.**	**12.8**	**6.3**	**1.5**	**40.1**	**84.1**	31.4
20	G	Danny Marakovits	6-4/185	Jr.	0.7	0.6	0.1	22.2	—	16.7
23	F	Ismael N'Diaye	6-6/188	Fr.	Had committed to Kansas State last fall.					
10	G	Brandon Okpalobi	6-2/184	Jr.	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	—	—
21	**F**	**Darius Rice***	**6-10/215**	**Jr.**	**14.9**	**5.9**	**1.7**	**38.3**	**80.0**	**36.5**
1	**G**	**Michael Simmons**	**6-1/198**	**Sr.**	**2.3**	**1.7**	**2.1**	**42.6**	**65.0**	**30.4**
3	**G**	**Armondo Surratt**	**5-11/165**	**Fr.**	**PG can dish, drive to the hoop.**					
11	G	Eric Wilkins	6-4/184	Fr.	Gives team backcourt help.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Marcus Barnes*	6-2/200	12.3	2.8	Dismissed in late August.			
G/F	John Salmons*	6-7/210	13.1	6.0	6.1	46.1	84.2	31.0
F/C	Elton Tyler*	6-9/236	11.9	5.2	1.1	58.0	75.8	42.9

Schedule

N23	New Hampshire	D18	Ark.-Pine Bluff	J20	Connecticut
N26	Texas A&M	D21	Florida*	J26	Syracuse
N30	Savannah State	D27	at Central Florida	J29	Providence
D3	at Florida Atlantic	D30	Lehigh	F1	at St. John's
D8	at Florida State	J4	North Carolina	F8	Villanova
D15	at Charlotte	J7	at West Virginia	F11	Virginia Tech
		J11	at Connecticut	F15	at Boston College
		J18	at Seton Hall		
				F17	at Providence
				F22	Georgetown
				F25	at Villanova
				M1	Boston College
				M5	at Virginia Tech
				M8	St. John's
				*at Amer. Airlines Arena	

6. Providence

National Rank 89

WHAT WE LIKE: The Friars are experienced and deep, with 12 players returning from last season. Ten of those players have starting experience, with perhaps the most familiar among the group being shooting guard Abdul Mills, a three-year starter. Mills, a lefthanded shooter, is the Friars' top returning scorer and best 3-point shooter. Junior Sheiku Kabba will step in at the point, giving the Friars a veteran backcourt. Junior Romuald Augustin and sophomore Ryan Gomes are skilled frontcourt players who could put together big numbers, but they need to remain healthy.

WHAT SCARES US: It's hard to imagine a Providence team without point guard John Linehan. Anyone who enjoys hustle and hard-nosed defensive basketball loved to watch Linehan in a Friars uniform. His fame as the NCAA's all-time steals leader was just a part of what he contributed to the Friars. Coach Tim Welsh's philosophy was transferred from the bench to the floor through Linehan. It was one of those rare relationships between a player and a coach that was a pleasure to witness. There isn't any one Friar who can replace all that Linehan provided, but the players can carry on his tradition with defensive intensity.

X FACTOR: Can Gomes pick up in the post where he left off? Gomes was one of the biggest surprises in the Big East as a freshman, leading the Friars in rebounding and finishing second in scoring. He was one of the major benefactors of a rash of injuries that allowed Welsh to give playing time to younger players. Gomes was a unanimous selection to the conference's all-rookie team, putting him in an elite class with Connecticut's Emeka Okafor and Notre Dame's Chris Thomas. Gomes has a strong inside game, and his continued improvement is a key for the Friars.

Friars Data

Coach: Tim Welsh (63-59, 4 years; 133-81 overall, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Steve DeMeo (5 years), Phil Seymore (3), Bob Walsh (5).
2001-2002 record: 15-16. Big East East: 6-10/6th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 28.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Providence, R.I.
Website: www.friars.com
Home court: Dunkin' Donuts Center (12,993).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
34	F	Leland Anderson	6-8/245	Jr.	3.6	2.1	1.0	36.6	64.5	—
20	F	Christopher Anrin	6-7/220	Jr.	6.1	1.5	0.9	37.3	73.3	35.2
4	**F**	**Romuald Augustin**	**6-7/205**	**Jr.**	**Missed last year with hip injury.**					
21	C	Marcus Douthit	6-10/224	Jr.	5.2	4.2	1.2	43.3	47.6	—
3	**F/C**	**Ryan Gomes***	**6-7/238**	**So.**	**13.8**	**7.8**	**1.5**	**55.9**	**61.3**	**0.0**
15	G	Kareem Hayletts	6-0/165	Sr.	0.6	0.4	0.2	75.0	53.8	—
44	F	Herbert Hill	6-9/205	Fr.	Strong rebounder adds depth to frontcourt.					
13	**G**	**Sheiku Kabba**	**6-2/185**	**Jr.**	**5.6**	**1.8**	**1.3**	**38.5**	**31.6**	**71.7**
25	F	Tuukka Kotti	6-9/215	So.	1.8	1.3	0.5	34.6	54.5	25.0
22	F	Maris Laksa*	6-9/222	Jr.	9.6	5.1	1.3	31.9	77.0	27.6
1	G	Donnie McGrath	6-4/185	Fr.	PG averaged 30.9 ppg as a H.S. Sr.					
11	**G**	**Abdul Mills***	**6-3/190**	**Sr.**	**14.5**	**3.3**	**2.6**	**36.6**	**33.2**	**68.2**
33	**F**	**Rob Sanders***	**6-7/213**	**So.**	**5.7**	**4.0**	**1.3**	**45.1**	**58.3**	**23.1**
35	F	Stephen Traugott	6-5/208	Sr.	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	—	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Donell Allick	6-4/195	Transferred.					
G	John Linehan*	5-9/165	12.5	3.8	4.4	39.1	83.6	33.8
F	Garnett Thompson	6-9/215	Left school.					

Schedule

N23	Brown	D21	at Alabama	J18	at Virginia Tech	F15	at St. John's
N26	at South Florida	D28	Northeastern	J22	Notre Dame	F17	Miami
N30	Ohio	D30	Pennsylvania	J29	at Miami	F22	Villanova
D4	Vermont	J4	Siena*	F1	Virginia Tech	F25	at Georgetown
D7	Rhode Island	J7	St. John's	F4	at Pittsburgh	M5	at Connecticut
D19	Richmond	J11	at Villanova	F8	Connecticut	M8	Seton Hall
		J13	at Boston College	F12	Boston College	*at Buffalo, N.Y.	

7. Virginia Tech

National Rank 162

WHAT WE LIKE: Guards Carlos Dixon and Brian Chase were Tech's top two scorers last season, and they've been through the Big East wars. Chase was among the conference leaders in 3-point shooting last season and can play either guard spot. Dixon is a true wing player and a solid defender. Guard Eric Branham is healthy again after suffering two fractures in his left hand last season. Coach Ricky Stokes finally has the depth that should enable the Hokies to play the more aggressive defensive style Stokes favors. With four conference victories last season, Tech has shown improvement but still has a long way to go to be a Big East contender.

WHAT SCARES US: Size is important—and the Hokies did lead the Big East in rebounding margin last season—but maybe this team is too beefy for its own good. Starting center Terry Taylor is up to 290 pounds, and sophomore Dimari Thompkins, who was 285 when he showed up in Blacksburg, still carries much of that weight. With all that bulk, the Hokies won't often get pushed around in the paint. But is Stokes trying to win basketball games or build an offensive line for the Tech football team? The Hokies want to get out and run, and though the fastbreak does start with rebounds, too many big guys could bog them down as they try to get downcourt.

X FACTOR: Stokes has been bragging about his recruiting class, the highest-rated group of his tenure. The Hokies certainly will need some production from these newcomers. Guards Markus Sailes and Shawn Harris are considered the future of the program, but Stokes has immediate plans for them. If they contribute from the start, it will ease some of the pressure on Dixon and Chase and give Stokes the numbers he needs for a deep rotation.

Hokies Data

Coach: Ricky Stokes (34-52, 3 years).
Assistant coaches: Mark Cline (3 years), Steve Lytton (3) Michael Hopkins (1st).
2001-2002 record: 10-18. Big East East: 4-12/7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 179.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Blacksburg, Va.
Website: www.hokiesports.com
Home court: Cassell Coliseum (10,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	Eric Branham	6-0/180	Sr.	3.8	2.5	2.5	33.3	50.0	22.0
21	F	Allan Calloway	6-8/200	Fr.	AAU teammates with Harris.					
5	**G**	**Brian Chase***	**5-10/170**	**Sr.**	**11.3**	**2.1**	**1.8**	**44.2**	**85.1**	**42.3**
00	F	Fabian Davis	6-6/215	Fr.	Is a good leaper, rebounder.					
32	**G**	**Carlos Dixon***	**6-7/195**	**Jr.**	**12.2**	**2.8**	**3.1**	**37.2**	**83.3**	**35.5**
23	G	Shawn Harris	6-4/230	Fr.	Metro Richmond Player of Year in '00-01.					
22	**F/G**	**Bryant Matthews***	**6-7/205**	**Jr.**	**9.9**	**5.1**	**2.0**	**36.5**	**70.5**	**28.7**
25	F	Phillip McCandies	6-9/200	Fr.	Big man has good shooting range.					
43	C	Luke Minor	7-3/293	Jr.	Played on USC's Elite Eight team in 2001.					
11	F	Harding Nana	6-8/210	Fr.	Redshirted last season with knee problems.					
24	G	Markus Sailes	6-5/185	Fr.	Richmond native will give backcourt help.					
33	**C**	**Terry Taylor***	**6-8/290**	**Sr.**	**11.1**	**6.5**	**1.0**	**53.4**	**68.9**	**—**
34	**C/F**	**Dimari Thomkins**	**6-8/250**	**So.**	**2.9**	**1.8**	**0.3**	**37.8**	**50.0**	**0.0**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Carlton Carter*	6-11/205	10.0	8.2	0.9	48.0	62.7	43.6
C	Mibindo Dongo	6-9/245	2.9	3.2	0.2	58.7	56.4	—
G/F	Joe Hamilton	6-6/185	6.6	2.9	1.3	46.5	75.0	33.3
F/C	Jon Smith	6-8/200	1.7	1.9	0.2	36.6	65.0	0.0

Schedule

D2	Wofford	Michigan		J25	St. John's	F19	at Boston College
D5	VMI	D30	Towson State	J29	Boston College	F22	at Notre Dame
D7	at William & Mary	J4	Florida State	F1	at Providence	F26	Pittsburgh
D9	at East Carolina	J8	at Villanova	F5	Connecticut	M1	Villanova
D14	Morgan State	J14	at Connecticut	F8	at St. John's	M5	Miami
D21	at Western	J18	Providence	F11	at Miami	M9	at West Virginia
		J21	Virginia	F15	Georgetown		

National Rank 7

1. Pittsburgh

WHAT WE LIKE: Five starters are back from a team that won 29 games last season and reached the Sweet 16. What's not to like? And Ben Howland's team was probably a year ahead of schedule, which means Pitt could be even better. Howland won just about every coaching award possible and was mentioned in connection with job openings across the country. Instead of bolting, he accepted a contract extension. That doesn't mean he's at Pitt to stay, but you have to respect his loyalty—although the appeal of this program is far greater than it was when Howland took the job in 1999. It all starts with senior point guard Brandin Knight, who averaged 15.6 points and set a school record with 251 assists. Joining Knight in the backcourt is Julius Page, an athletic scorer who showed great improvement as a sophomore. Senior Donatas Zavackas and junior Jaron Brown are the returning forwards. Junior Toree Morris started last year at center, but Chevon Troutman took over in the postseason and excited coaches with his potential. He'll share the position with Ontario Lett—a combination that gives Pitt lots of muscle though not much height. Add in Howland's terrific defensive schemes, and Pitt has much of what it takes to go deep into the NCAA Tournament again. Last year, Pitt's scoring defense was 12th in the country. When the Panthers play that way, they're the best team in the Big East.

Schedule

N23	Duquesne
N27	St. Francis (Pa.)
N30	Ark.-Pine Bluff
D3	Norfolk State
D7	at Penn State
D14	SE Louisiana
D18	Ohio State
D21	at Rhode Island
D28	George Mason
D31	at Georgia
J4	Robert Morris
J6	Notre Dame
J11	at Rutgers
J14	at West Virginia
J18	Syracuse
J25	Georgetown
F1	at Syracuse
F4	Providence
F9	at Notre Dame
F12	West Virginia
F15	at Seton Hall
F17	at Georgetown
F22	Rutgers
F26	at Virginia Tech
M2	Connecticut
M5	Seton Hall
M9	at Villanova

WHAT SCARES US: Any team that wins more on chemistry than talent faces a challenge trying to recapture or improve upon what worked in the past—especially now that opponents have had a summer to analyze tape of what made the Panthers so tough to play. The core of this team isn't tall, which shouldn't be a factor in the guard-dominated Big East but might become an issue in the NCAAs. Also, Knight had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in early July. The procedure removed a tiny piece of cartilage that had been bothering Knight in the back of his knee. Tendinitis has been a source of distress for three years; Knight also suffered a strained right quadriceps muscle in the Big East tournament title game and endured injuries to his calf. Knight's health is important to the Panthers, and Howland will rest him more by playing Carl Krauser, who sat out last season as an ineligible freshman. In conference games last season, Knight averaged 38.5 minutes. The Panthers must work to develop a sharper attack without him.

X FACTOR: Paul Evans and Ralph Willard coached at Pitt with the promise of a new facility. It never happened. Howland is the lucky winner. The Panthers begin play in their new digs at a time when interest in the program couldn't be higher. Fitzgerald Field House was good to the Panthers, but the Petersen Events Center, with its 12,500 chair-back seats, is stylish, high-tech and plush. It should provide an emotional lift for the Panthers this season and will help in recruiting. Pitt's administration has wisely given the student body seats that circle the court—1,200 seats right on top of the action. That should salvage a little of the noise and spirit that made Fitzgerald such a tough venue for opponents.

A BIG EAST COACH SAYS...

They're going to be the same team as last year, which is pretty darned good. The obvious strength is point guard; they get great leadership from Brandin Knight. They had a guard sitting out, Carl Krauser—fabulous. The pressure is on Coach Howland to keep them together. The biggest challenge is how they deal with their success. Their weakness is outside shooting, but they make up for it because they play so hard, get out in transition and defend so well.

Brandin Knight

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Panthers Data

Coach: Ben Howland (61-35, 3 years; 139-94 overall, 8 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Jamie Dixon (3 years), Barry Rohrssen (3), Ernie Zeigler (1).
2001-2002 record: 29-6. Big East West: 13-3/1st. Lost to Kent State in NCAA South semifinals.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 95.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Pittsburgh.
Website: www.pittsburghpanthers.com
Home court: John M. and Gertrude E. Petersen Events Center (12,500).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	**G**	**Jaron Brown***	**6-4/229**	**Jr.**	**9.3**	**6.1**	**2.3**	**51.8**	**62.5**	**16.7**
3	G	Yuri Demetris	6-4/205	So.	1.5	0.7	0.6	41.7	58.3	20.0
0	G	Carlo Dorazio	6-0/173	Jr.	0.7	0.3	0.3	50.0	—	0.0
15	G	Gino Federico	6-5/215	Jr.	0.5	0.5	0.2	66.7	0.0	100.0
14	F	Levon Kendall	6-9/210	Fr.	Vancouver native led H.S. to two titles.					
20	**G**	**Brandin Knight***	**6-0/183**	**Sr.**	**15.6**	**4.8**	**7.2**	**42.7**	**44.2**	**35.6**
11	G	Carl Krauser	6-2/200	Fr.	Redshirt was a TSN Top 100 recruit.					
50	F	Ontario Lett	6-6/265	Sr.	8.5	4.6	0.8	57.0	61.2	—
21	F	Mark McCarroll	6-10/210	So.	2.8	1.8	0.5	42.9	40.0	21.4
55	C	Toree Morris*	6-10/282	Jr.	4.0	3.3	0.1	54.2	46.2	—
1	**G**	**Julius Page***	**6-3/191**	**Jr.**	**12.2**	**3.6**	**2.2**	**46.6**	**80.9**	**31.3**
2	**F**	**Chevon Troutman**	**6-7/236**	**So.**	**5.3**	**3.5**	**0.5**	**55.7**	**47.1**	**37.5**
23	F	Ed Turner	6-6/175	Fr.	Father, Edward, was '82 Rockets draft pick.					
5	**F**	**Donatas Zavackas***	**6-8/238**	**Sr.**	**11.1**	**5.4**	**1.9**	**42.6**	**81.4**	**33.3**

Key Loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Chad Johnson	6-5/215	4.2	2.8	1.3	36.7	60.4	29.5

2. Syracuse

National Rank 26

WHAT WE LIKE: The Orangemen have a certain soap-opera quality to them that even makes roster moves exciting. Will Carmelo Anthony achieve the test score he needs to get into Syracuse, or will he go for the money in the NBA draft? Will Billy Edelin be successful in his petition for readmission? Will DeShaun Williams survive his legal problems and maintain his academic eligibility? Coach Jim Boeheim probably would be happier with a reduced exposure to the transaction wire, but that was the kind of summer it was in upstate New York. The outcome was positive for Anthony and Edelin, two of the best high school players from the past two seasons. That should be enough to get Syracuse back to the NCAA Tournament.

WHAT SCARES US: Williams and Kueth Duany were supposed to represent the experienced part of the Orange lineup. Then came the news in late July of Williams' academic dismissal. It wasn't necessarily a bad thing—insiders had their doubts Williams would cope well with the instant stardom of Anthony—but it did leave the team with a nearly complete reliance on freshmen and sophomores to score, defend and play intelligently. Duany and sophomore center Craig Forth are the only returning starters.

X FACTOR: How long will it take for the newcomers to find their roles? Anthony might have been capable of the transition from high school to the NBA; that's how good he is. Edelin was going to be eased into the point guard spot last season, before he was suspended from school for one year for his role in an alleged sexual assault. Now Gerry McNamara joins the fold, giving Syracuse two guards who can handle the ball and shoot. Don't feel bad for Boeheim, whose system features enough freedom that it shouldn't take long for the Orangemen to become dangerous.

Orangemen Data

Coach: Jim Boeheim (623-221, 26 years; 32-21 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Bernie Fine (26 years), Mike Hopkins (7), Troy Weaver (2).
2001-2002 record: 23-13. Big East West: 9-7/T3rd. Lost to Temple in NIT 3rd-place game.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 30.
Last league title: 2000 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Syracuse, N.Y.
Website: www.suathletics.com
Home court: Carrier Dome (33,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
15	**F**	**Carmelo Anthony**	**6-8/220**	**Fr.**	**Ranked among nation's top 5 '02 recruits.**					
13	**G**	**Kueth Duany***	**6-6/185**	**Sr.**	**12.2**	**5.3**	**1.6**	**45.4**	**62.9**	**34.1**
14	**G**	**Billy Edelin**	**6-4/195**	**Fr.**	**Suspended Oct. '01, reinstated June '02.**					
51	**C**	**Craig Forth***	**7-0/265**	**So.**	**4.9**	**4.5**	**1.1**	**44.3**	**63.0**	**—**
24	F	Matt Gorman	6-9/235	Fr.	Good rebounder, should get minutes.					
11	G	Ronneil Herron	5-11/158	Jr.	0.4	0.1	0.1	50.0	50.0	—
10	G	Andrew Kouwe	6-0/170	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
3	G	Gerry McNamara	6-2/172	Fr.	Highly-touted SG should see quality time.					
34	F	Jeremy McNeil	6-8/257	Jr.	3.4	3.7	0.1	68.7	36.0	—
5	G	Josh Pace	6-5/190	So.	4.3	2.0	0.8	49.6	58.3	10.0
1	**F**	**Hakim Warrick**	**6-8/205**	**So.**	**6.1**	**4.8**	**0.5**	**55.2**	**38.3**	**50.0**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Billy Celuck	7-0/213	1.9	2.0	0.3	45.9	46.2	—
F	Ethan Cole	6-9/244	2.0	1.9	0.4	33.3	75.0	0.0
F	Preston Shumpert*	6-6/198	20.7	6.1	2.3	43.3	81.8	37.0
G	James Thues*	5-10/172	5.6	2.9	Transferred to Detroit.			
G	DeShaun Williams*	6-3/202	15.9	3.5	Dismissed. Transferred to Iona.			

Schedule

N14	Memphis*	D28	Albany	J26	at Miami
N24	Valparaiso	D30	Canisius	J28	at Rutgers
D3	Colgate	J8	at Seton Hall	F1	Pittsburgh
D6	Cornell	J11	Boston College	F3	Georgetown
D14	Binghamton	J13	Missouri	F8	at West Virginia
D21	Georgia Tech	J18	at Pittsburgh	F10	at Connecticut
		J22	Seton Hall	F15	Notre Dame
				F18	St. John's
				F23	at Michigan State
				F26	West Virginia
				M1	at Georgetown
				M4	at Notre Dame
				M9	Rutgers
					*at New York City

3. Notre Dame

National Rank 39

WHAT WE LIKE: The stability coach Mike Brey provides has been a blessing for Irish fans, and Brey was duly rewarded in July with a two-year contract extension. Brey, 42-21 in his first two seasons in South Bend, now is signed through the 2008-09 season. That's the type of news recruits like to hear. Brey is the only coach in school history to lead the Irish to at least 20 wins and the NCAA Tournament in each of his first two seasons. His background as an assistant at Duke shines through in the classy way he handles himself and his program. And if he continues to recruit players such as Chris Thomas and Torin Francis, Brey will be welcomed by Irish fans forever. Thomas made an enormous impact last season; he demonstrated the value of a point guard who can score or pass depending on what's needed. He was Notre Dame's No. 2 scorer, led the conference with 7.6 assists a game and set single-season school records with 252 assists and 72 steals.

WHAT SCARES US: The Irish must find replacements for senior starters Ryan Humphrey, David Graves and Harold Swanagan. Humphrey developed into a first-round NBA draft pick. Graves and Swanagan combined to average more than 22 points last season. Add Humphrey's 18.9 points and league-leading 10.9 rebounds, and that's a lot of production to replace. Dan Miller, a 6-8 transfer from Maryland, has good shooting range and will get the first shot at replacing Graves. It may take a committee to replace Swanagan, but Brey has sizable choices in Tom Timmermans and Francis.

X FACTOR: Brey must have patience with his frontcourt and hope that the backcourt can carry the load early. Thomas and guard Matt Carroll—an excellent 3-point shooter—have proved themselves, but backcourt depth is an issue.

Irish Data

Coach: Mike Brey (42-21, 2 years; 141-73 overall, 7 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Sean Kearney (2 years), Anthony Solomon (2), Lewis Preston (2).
2001-2002 record: 22-11. Big East West: 10-6/2nd. Lost to Duke in NCAA South second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 50.
Last league title: 2001 (West Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Notre Dame, Ind.
Website: www.und.com
Home court: Joyce Center (11,418).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
13	**G**	**Matt Carroll***	**6-6/212**	**Sr.**	**14.1**	**4.8**	**2.1**	**46.9**	**82.6**	**41.2**
11	F	Rick Cornett	6-8/230	Fr.	May contribute this season as a rebounder.					
12	**F**	**Jordan Cornette**	**6-9/221**	**So.**	**2.7**	**3.3**	**0.5**	**43.9**	**47.6**	**25.0**
34	**C**	**Torin Francis**	**6-10/220**	**Fr.**	**McDonald's All-Amer. avg. 28.5 ppg as Sr.**					
20	G	Torrian Jones	6-4/197	Jr.	3.5	2.0	1.3	46.2	57.5	17.2
15	**F**	**Jere Macura**	**6-9/230**	**Sr.**	**4.1**	**2.8**	**0.5**	**60.5**	**56.4**	**40.0**
51	G	Chris Markwood	6-4/198	Jr.	0.4	0.3	0.8	33.3	75.0	0.0
21	**G/F**	**Dan Miller**	**6-8/223**	**Sr.**	**Transfer from Maryland fills in at the wing.**					
4	F/C	Omari Peterkin	6-8/225	Fr.	Adds depth to an unproven frontline.					
2	G	Chris Quinn	6-1/175	Fr.	Smart player with a good outside shot.					
1	**G**	**Chris Thomas***	**6-1/175**	**So.**	**15.6**	**3.5**	**7.6**	**38.7**	**88.9**	**36.9**
50	**C**	**Tom Timmermans**	**6-11/263**	**Jr.**	**2.2**	**1.8**	**0.3**	**42.9**	**57.9**	**—**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	David Graves*	6-6/208	14.4	5.0	2.9	43.0	85.9	39.9
F	Ryan Humphrey*	6-8/233	18.9	10.9	2.6	48.9	59.8	50.0
F	Harold Swanagan*	6-7/252	8.1	6.7	1.5	58.7	65.7	—
G	Charles Thomas	5-11/160	1.0	0.2	0.1	26.7	50.0	25.0

Schedule

N22	Bucknell	D22	Canisius	J25	at Boston College
N25	Lehigh	D30	Vanderbilt	J29	West Virginia
N30	Albany	J4	Valparaiso*	F1	Georgetown
D2	Marquette	J6	at Pittsburgh	F5	at Seton Hall
D7-8	BB&T Classic	J11	Seton Hall	F9	Pittsburgh
D14	DePaul	J14	Rutgers	F15	at Syracuse
		J18	at Kentucky	F19	at West Virginia
		J22	at Providence		
				F22	Virginia Tech
				F24	Connecticut
				M1	at Rutgers
				M4	Syracuse
				M8	at Georgetown
					*at United Center, Chicago

4. Georgetown

National Rank 45

WHAT WE LIKE: Mike Sweetney is a star. He was the only Big East player last season to finish in the top five in scoring (19.0) and rebounding (10.0). He also led the conference in field-goal percentage (56.7). Despite those outstanding numbers, there was a feeling Sweetney could do more—if somebody would give him the ball for more than 11 shots per game. Perhaps that's why the Hoyas fell shy of expectations with a 19-11 record overall and a 9-7 mark in the Big East. Starters Wesley Wilson, Gerald Riley and Tony Bethel return as well, so the Hoyas should be experienced enough to understand that Sweetney is their go-to guy.

WHAT SCARES US: It wouldn't be such a worry to replace Kevin Braswell if there were an obvious candidate to take over. Braswell was Georgetown's floor leader the past four years and left as the school's all-time assists and steals leader, but he led the Hoyas to all of one NCAA Tournament trip in his career. Drew Hall is likely to join Bethel in the starting backcourt. Hall averaged 20 minutes as a freshman, mostly at point guard. He has a little spark to his game but is not very physical.

X FACTOR: Once again, the schedule could be an issue for the Hoyas. After years of being criticized for having a weak non-conference schedule, Georgetown took another course last season with 11 games against teams that appeared in the Associated Press Top 25. But a 19-11 record wasn't good enough to secure an NCAA Tournament bid, and the Hoyas then turned down an invitation to the NIT when they were offered a road game in the first round. This season, the non-conference schedule includes Duke, South Carolina, Virginia and UCLA. And with Big East crossover games against Miami, St. John's and Providence, the Hoyas will be put to the test often.

Hoyas Data

Coach: Craig Esherick (71-44, 4 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Mike Riley (18 years), Ronny Thompson (4), Chip Simms (3).
2001-2002 record: 19-11. Big East West 9-7/T3rd.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 16.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Washington, D.C.
Website: www.guhoyas.com
Home court: McDonough Arena (2,500); MCI Center (20,600).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
22	**G**	**Tony Bethel***	**6-2/165**	**So.**	**10.1**	**4.2**	**2.4**	**40.1**	**75.0**	**37.6**
	F	Brandon Bowman	6-8/190	Fr.	Sharpshooter led H.S. team to Calif. state title.					
	G	Ashanti Cook	6-3/165	Fr.	Bowman's teammate. Avg. 13 ppg, 7 apg.					
3	F	Omari Faulkner	6-6/215	Jr.	0.7	1.1	0.2	33.3	27.8	—
2	F	Courtland Freeman	6-9/222	Sr.	4.1	3.9	1.0	38.2	53.1	15.8
5	**G**	**Drew Hall**	**6-2/175**	**So.**	**4.9**	**2.1**	**2.0**	**35.3**	**77.4**	**38.3**
11	G	Trenton Hillier	5-9/165	Sr.	0.4	0.7	0.3	25.0	—	0.0
	F	A. Kilkenny-Diaw	6-8/215	Fr.	Averaged 11 ppg as H.S. Sr. in D.C.					
20	F/G	Darrel Owens	6-6/210	So.	Academically ineligible last season.					
32	**G**	**Gerald Riley***	**6-6/215**	**Jr.**	**10.3**	**4.0**	**1.6**	**40.2**	**81.3**	**38.2**
10	G/F	RaMell Ross	6-5/185	Jr.	Sat out last season with foot injury.					
13	F	Victor Samnick	6-8/208	Sr.	5.8	4.6	1.2	42.0	76.7	25.5
34	**F**	**Mike Sweetney***	**6-8/260**	**Jr.**	**19.0**	**10.0**	**1.7**	**56.7**	**78.8**	**0.0**
50	**C**	**Wesley Wilson***	**6-11/235**	**Sr.**	**12.2**	**6.2**	**0.6**	**56.3**	**61.9**	**—**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Kevin Braswell*	6-2/190	14.4	3.1	5.8	40.1	83.5	33.3
F	Harvey Thomas	6-8/205	Transferred to Daytona CC					

Schedule

N22	Grambling	D20	Howard	J20	Rutgers	F15	at Virginia Tech
N25	James Madison	D28	at Virginia	J25	at Pittsburgh	F17	Pittsburgh
N30	Towson	D31	VMI	J29	Seton Hall	F22	at Miami
D2	Coastal Carolina	J8	at Duke	F1	at Notre Dame	F25	Providence
D5	South Carolina	J11	West Virginia	F3	at Syracuse	M1	Syracuse
D16	Norfolk	J14	at Seton Hall	F8	UCLA	M5	at West Virginia
		J18	St. John's	F11	at Rutgers	M8	Notre Dame

5. Rutgers

National Rank 51

WHAT WE LIKE: There are positive vibrations coming from New Jersey's state university. When was the last time you could say that? Coach Gary Waters is the impetus. Where so many other coaches have failed, Waters was able to take his philosophy of defense and high energy and turn Rutgers' Athletic Center into one of the most boisterous venues in college basketball. Waters brought his successful formula from Kent State and accomplished the three primary goals he put in place for his first season: The Scarlet Knights were a dominant team at home (15-2 overall, 7-1 Big East), they finished at least .500 (8-8) in conference play and they qualified for the Big East tournament. The Scarlet Knights, who had finished 11-16 and 3-13 the season before, thrilled RAC fans with wins over Georgetown, Syracuse, Miami and Connecticut.

WHAT SCARES US: Replacing scorer and rebounder Rashod Kent won't be easy. Kent matured into a dominant force around the basket, and at 6-6 and 275 pounds, he created matchup problems for most opponents. Junior Sean Axani, who started the last 10 games of the season, might be able to pick up some of the slack. Junior college transfer Harry Good and senior Kareem Wright also will be asked to replace Kent's muscle. Waters welcomes four starters back, including Axani, but it will take several players to replace the one starter who doesn't return.

X FACTOR: It's time to take the program to the next level. Winning at home is great, and the Scarlet Knights finally are enjoying the advantages of the RAC, but something has to be done about the road record. Rutgers really hurt itself by going 1-7 on the road in Big East play. Two more road wins would have lifted Rutgers into second place in the West Division.

Scarlet Knights Data

Coach: Gary Waters (18-13, 1 year; 110-73 overall, 6 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Kevin Heck (1 year), Garland Mance (1), Larry DeSimpelare (1).
2001-2002 record: 18-13. Big East West: 8-8/5th. Lost to Yale in NIT first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 132.
Last league title: 1991 (Atlantic 10).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: New Brunswick, N.J.
Website: www.scarletknights.com
Home court: Brown Athletic Ctr. (8,500).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
32	**F**	**Sean Axani***	**6-7/230**	**Jr.**	**3.5**	**3.2**	**0.9**	**42.6**	**62.5**	**25.0**
33	G	Sloan Baptiste	6-3/175	Jr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
11	**G**	**Jerome Coleman***	**6-2/190**	**Sr.**	**16.8**	**3.3**	**1.5**	**37.4**	**71.3**	**34.6**
5	F	Cortez Davis	6-7/185	Fr.	Rated by many as a top 75 recruit.					
25	F/C	Harry Good	6-9/245	Jr.	Played freshman year at Northwestern.					
	F	Adrian Hill	6-7/225	Fr.	September signee. One of Ohio's top big men.					
1	F	Herve Lamizana	6-10/215	Jr.	6.6	3.4	0.9	38.3	66.7	40.9
21	F	Jason McCoy	6-9/195	So.	1.1	1.9	0.7	24.0	70.0	15.8
23	F	Justin Piasecki	6-8/215	Jr.	0.6	0.5	0.1	33.3	75.0	0.0
3	**G**	**Mike Sherrod***	**6-2/180**	**Jr.**	**8.6**	**3.4**	**4.0**	**36.9**	**53.0**	**19.4**
2	**G**	**Ricky Shields***	**6-4/185**	**So.**	**11.5**	**3.6**	**1.8**	**36.8**	**79.8**	**31.4**
13	G	Juel Wiggan	6-3/195	So.	2.4	2.0	1.7	31.9	67.6	14.3
44	G	Calvin Wooten	6-1/180	Fr.	Smooth guard shot 49.0 FG% as a senior.					
55	**C**	**Kareem Wright**	**6-9/270**	**Sr.**	**2.2**	**1.4**	**0.0**	**53.2**	**48.0**	**—**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Eugene Dabney	6-10/225	5.7	3.7	Transferred to Kentucky Wesleyan.			
G	Connor Fox	6-1/175	0.5	0.2	0.2	28.6	75.0	33.3
G	Mitch Garrett	5-10/175	0.6	0.4	Studying abroad.			
F	Rashod Kent*	6-6/275	10.5	10.2	1.6	54.1	37.1	—

Schedule

N18-29	Preseason NIT	D21	Virginia	J20	at Georgetown	F18	at Connecticut
N24	at Temple	D23	Morris Brown	J25	at West Virginia	F22	at Pittsburgh
D2	Marshall	D28	Delaware State	J28	Syracuse	F25	Seton Hall
D8	at Auburn	J4	La Salle	F2	at Seton Hall	M1	Notre Dame
D11	Fordham	J11	Pittsburgh	F8	Boston College	M6	at St. John's
D14	at Princeton	J14	at Notre Dame	F11	Georgetown	M9	at Syracuse
		J18	Villanova	F15	West Virginia		

6. Seton Hall

National Rank 77

WHAT WE LIKE: Two of the most exciting players in the league—point guard Andre Barrett and small forward John Allen—form the nucleus for coach Louis Orr. Barrett, back for his third season as a starter, has been asked to shoulder a great deal more than he ever expected. He led the team in scoring and assists last season and added 3.6 rebounds a game, not bad for a 5-8 guy. The more Barrett's game matures, the more the Pirates will expect from him. Most important, as the team's quarterback, he must instill an attitude that will lead Seton Hall back to its winning ways. Allen undoubtedly will have a lot to do with any resurgence. A member of the league's all-rookie team last season, Allen could see some time at shooting guard this season.

WHAT SCARES US: Until someone steps up and provides additional scoring, the burden is going to fall on Barrett and Allen. The Pirates proved last season that a two-man attack isn't enough. Orr wants the Pirates to play more aggressively on defense and score off turnovers; he also wants to push the tempo more. But Barrett can't give proper focus to his point guard duties if he's also expected to lead the team in scoring. Allen certainly should take his game to another level this season, but it's the frontcourt where Seton Hall needs productivity. With Darius Lane gone, Orr needs scoring from Marcus Toney-El, Greg Morton and Damion Fray.

X FACTOR: As a prep star in New York, Andre Sweet attracted the attention of Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski. Duke hoped Sweet, a 6-6 forward, would mature into one of those trademark wing players who bring so much success to the Blue Devils. But academic trouble derailed Sweet in his first semester at Duke, and he ultimately transferred to Seton Hall. If Sweet establishes himself in the frontcourt, it will be an enormous boost for the Pirates.

Pirates Data

Coach: Louis Orr (12-18, 1 year; 32-29 overall, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Brian Nash (1 year), Billy Garrett (1), John Dunne (1).
2001-2002 record: 12-18. Big East West: 5-11/6th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 79.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: South Orange, N.J.
Website: www.shupirates.com
Home court: Continental Airlines Arena (20,029).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
32	**F**	**John Allen***	**6-5/203**	**So.**	**11.4**	**5.5**	**1.9**	**38.3**	**73.0**	**28.2**
12	**G**	**Andre Barrett***	**5-8/161**	**Jr.**	**16.9**	**3.6**	**5.0**	**39.6**	**75.3**	**34.3**
14	G	Raheem Carter	6-3/207	Sr.	0.7	0.3	0.1	33.3	55.6	100.0
15	G	Jerel Cokley	6-2/180	Jr.	Walk-on did not play.					
10	G	Donald Copeland	5-10/165	Fr.	Will allow Barrett to play some at off-guard.					
31	F	Eric Davis	6-9/225	Fr.	Strong rebounder; physical player.					
23	F	Damion Fray	6-7/223	Jr.	3.0	2.3	0.1	49.2	57.5	—
22	C	Alexander Gambino	7-0/245	Fr.	Redshirted last year to gain strength.					
2	**G**	**Desmond Herod**	**6-4/168**	**Sr.**	**3.7**	**1.4**	**0.4**	**38.8**	**88.9**	**43.2**
4	G	J.R. Morris	6-6/196	Fr.	Slasher who has a lot of potential.					
50	**F**	**Greg Morton***	**6-7/209**	**Sr.**	**3.7**	**3.9**	**0.7**	**41.9**	**67.7**	**36.8**
33	G	Andre Sweet	6-6/208	So.	Duke transfer is tough, can rebound.					
13	F	Marcus Toney-El	6-6/211	Jr.	4.7	3.4	0.7	39.8	60.7	34.7
1	**F**	**Kelly Whitney**	**6-8/220**	**Fr.**	**Could be the team's best inside scorer.**					
20	G	Jamar Wise	6-0/170	Sr.	Walk-on did not play.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Mauricio Branwell	6-8/208	Transferred to a junior college.					
G	Darius Lane*	6-4/208	12.5	4.7	1,5	39.8	71.7	38.9
C	Charles Manga*	6-10/241	6.8	6.8	1.0	42.7	50.0	25.0
G	Ty Shine	6-0/181	7.0	1.3	0.4	36.7	77.6	26.3

Schedule

N23	San Francisco	D21	at Ohio State	J14	Georgetown	F17	Villanova
N30	at Texas	D28	at DePaul	J18	Miami	F22	at West Virginia
D2	St. Francis (N.Y.)	D31	Stony Brook	J22	at Syracuse	F25	at Rutgers
D5	St. Peter's	J2	Rider	J29	at Georgetown	M1	West Virginia
D12	Monmouth	J4	at St. John's	F2	Rutgers	M5	at Pittsburgh
D14	Louisville	J8	Syracuse	F5	Notre Dame	M8	at Providence
		J11	at Notre Dame	F15	Pittsburgh		

7. West Virginia

National Rank 136

WHAT WE LIKE: New coach John Beilein's track record indicates it won't be long before the Mountaineers are headed in the right direction. But he is taking over a troubled program and will need time and patience. Beilein ended West Virginia's crazy coaching search April 17—six days after Bowling Green's Dan Dakich backed out of his agreement to coach in Morgantown because of possible NCAA rules violations. The bad publicity began when Gale Catlett announced his retirement in February after 24 years and 439 wins at the school. Then there was the courtship of Bob Huggins, who appeared tempted by the opening at his alma mater but ultimately decided to remain at Cincinnati. Now it is Beilein to the rescue. Beilein, 49, posted a 100-53 record in five seasons at Richmond.

WHAT SCARES US: This season will be an experiment. Senior forward Josh Yeager is the only full-time starter returning, and he will be expected to produce more than the 7.5 points and 3.6 rebounds he averaged last season. Chaz Briggs is only 6-7, but he's likely to patrol the middle. And the team is woefully short of guards following the September dismissal of point man Tim Lyles, who averaged 11.5 points and 5.4 assists two seasons ago and sat out last season with a knee injury.

X FACTOR: Morale will be an issue all season. Beilein knows that. The Mountaineers are sure to endure more hard times before things turn around. His task will be to keep them focused on learning a new system, trying to improve every day and taking satisfaction from small things. When things didn't go right last season it resulted in a lot of finger pointing in the locker room. Catlett could never bring things under control, and as a result everything is different now.

Mountaineers Data

Coach: John Beilein (1st year; 189-115 overall, 10 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Jeff Neubauer (1st), Mike Jones (1st), Matt Brown (1st).
2001-2002 record: 8-20. Big East West: 1-15/7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 49.
Last league title: 1989 (Atlantic 10).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Morgantown, W. Va.
Website: www.msnsportsnet.com
Home court: WVU Coliseum (14,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Patrick Beilein	6-4/195	Fr.	Followed his dad to West Virginia.					
2	**F**	**Chaz Briggs***	**6-7/210**	**Sr.**	**7.0**	**5.0**	**1.1**	**57.1**	**53.1**	**0.0**
	G	J. Durisseau-Collins	5-10/195	Fr.	Is a solid outside shooter, defender.					
	G	Johannes Herber	6-6/205	Fr.	German guard brings versatility to team.					
33	**G**	**Jay Hewitt**	**6-6/200**	**Jr.**	**1.6**	**1.3**	**1.6**	**19.2**	**47.1**	**9.5**
	F	Kevin Pittsnogle	6-10/220	Fr.	Good shooter, passer named W.Va. all-state.					
4	**F**	**Tyrone Sally**	**6-7/190**	**So.**	**4.4**	**3.3**	**1.3**	**44.7**	**54.9**	**35.3**
15	**G**	**Drew Schifino***	**6-3/190**	**So.**	**9.7**	**3.3**	**1.1**	**40.4**	**57.1**	**37.5**
1	G	Tobias Seldon	6-2/170	Jr.	0.6	0.4	0.3	12.5	50.0	0.0
22	**F**	**Josh Yeager***	**6-8/195**	**Sr.**	**7.5**	**3.6**	**1.7**	**52.8**	**46.7**	**40.5**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Lionel Armstead	5-11/175	10.7	3.2	1.7	38.3	77.1	38.5
C	Ales Chan	7-1/230	1.6	1.9	0.1	41.4	72.7	—
C	Chris Garnett	6-10/260	1.8	2.3	Transferred.			
G	Jonathan Hargett*	6-0/180	13.8	2.8	Released from team.			
G	Tim Lyles	5-11/170	Sat out last season. Dismissed in September.					
F	Chris Moss*	6-8/225	17.5	8.0	0.9	54.2	71.9	0.0
C	John Oliver	6-9/235	2.2	2.1	0.7	47.6	83.3	—

Schedule

N22	Delaware State	D18	Western Carolina	J19	at Boston College	F15	at Rutgers
N25	at Duquesne	D21	Tennessee	J22	Marshall	F19	Notre Dame
N30	James Madison	D28-29	Jim Thorpe Cla.	J25	Rutgers	F22	Seton Hall
D4	Florida	J4	at Saint Louis	J29	at Notre Dame	F26	at Syracuse
D7	UNC Greensboro	J7	Miami	F1	at Villanova	M1	at Seton Hall
D14	Wofford	J11	at Georgetown	F8	Syracuse	M5	Georgetown
		J14	Pittsburgh	F12	at Pittsburgh	M9	Virginia Tech

Rank 6

By Todd Schulz, Lansing (Mich.) State Journal

Big Ten

If you want to see the impact of early NBA defections on the college game, look no further than the Big Ten Conference.

The league's last two players of the year—Indiana's Jared Jeffries and Illinois' Frank Williams—as well as 2002 league scoring champ Marcus Taylor of Michigan State all bolted prematurely to the pros.

Their exodus leaves the Big Ten with a handful of promising but unproven contenders—and no dominant squad to light up the conference marquee. As impossible as it sounds after last season's four-way tie at the top, parity could run even more rampant this season.

Michigan State, which has won or shared four of the past five championships, is the safest bet of the bunch. But the departure of point guard Taylor leaves Tom Izzo's squad with a major unknown at the most important position on the floor.

Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio State and Illinois—in no particular order—all figure to nip at the Spartans' heels. Purdue, coming off its first losing season since 1989, and Michigan are improved and might figure into the picture.

ASCENDING: Minnesota. The stars are aligning above the Twin Cities, where coach Dan Monson's reclamation project appears poised for a major breakthrough. In 1999, Clem Haskins crashed and Monson inherited a steaming wreck riddled by academic fraud and NCAA sanctions. But with Big Ten Player of the Year favorite Rick Rickert and a deep supporting cast, the Gophers have as much chance as anyone to be polishing the league hardware in March.

DESCENDING: Illinois. Yep, Bill Self is a good coach who brought in a top-flight recruiting class. Yep, player of the year candidate Brian Cook is back. But the Illini simply lost too much experienced talent—Williams, Cory Bradford, Robert Archibald, Lucas Johnson and Damir Krupalija—not to feel some pain. Self enters the season without superior firepower, and despite his best efforts, the Illini will take a step back.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Jared Jeffries, Indiana. He fueled the Hoosiers' magical run to the NCAA national title game with scoring, rebounding, passing and blocked shots. Forward Jeff Newton and center George Leach assume the not-so-enviable task of trying to follow Jeffries' act. Newton, a hero in the national semifinals, and Leach, an athletic shot swatter, have each shown flashes of potential. Now they must sustain it. Indiana coach Mike Davis is confident, reminding folks that Indiana was left for dead when Kirk Haston left early before last season.

2. Marcus Taylor, Michigan State. Though he struggled with turnovers and decision making, Taylor was just the second player in

PREDICTIONS

1. Michigan State*
2. Indiana*
3. Minnesota*
4. Wisconsin*
5. Ohio State*
6. Illinois
7. Michigan
8. Northwestern
9. Purdue
10. Iowa
11. Penn State

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tom Coverdale, Indiana	6-2	185	Sr.
G	Chris Hill, Michigan St.	6-3	185	So.
G/F	Kirk Penney, Wisconsin	6-5	220	Sr.
F	Brian Cook, Illinois	6-10	240	Sr.
F	Rick Rickert, Minnesota	6-11	216	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Willie Deane, Purdue	6-1	196	Sr.
G	Brent Darby, Ohio State	6-1	195	Sr.
F	LaVell Blanchard, Michigan	6-7	208	Sr.
F	Jeff Newton, Indiana	6-9	210	Sr.
F	Adam Ballinger, Michigan St.	6-9	250	Sr.

Player of the Year

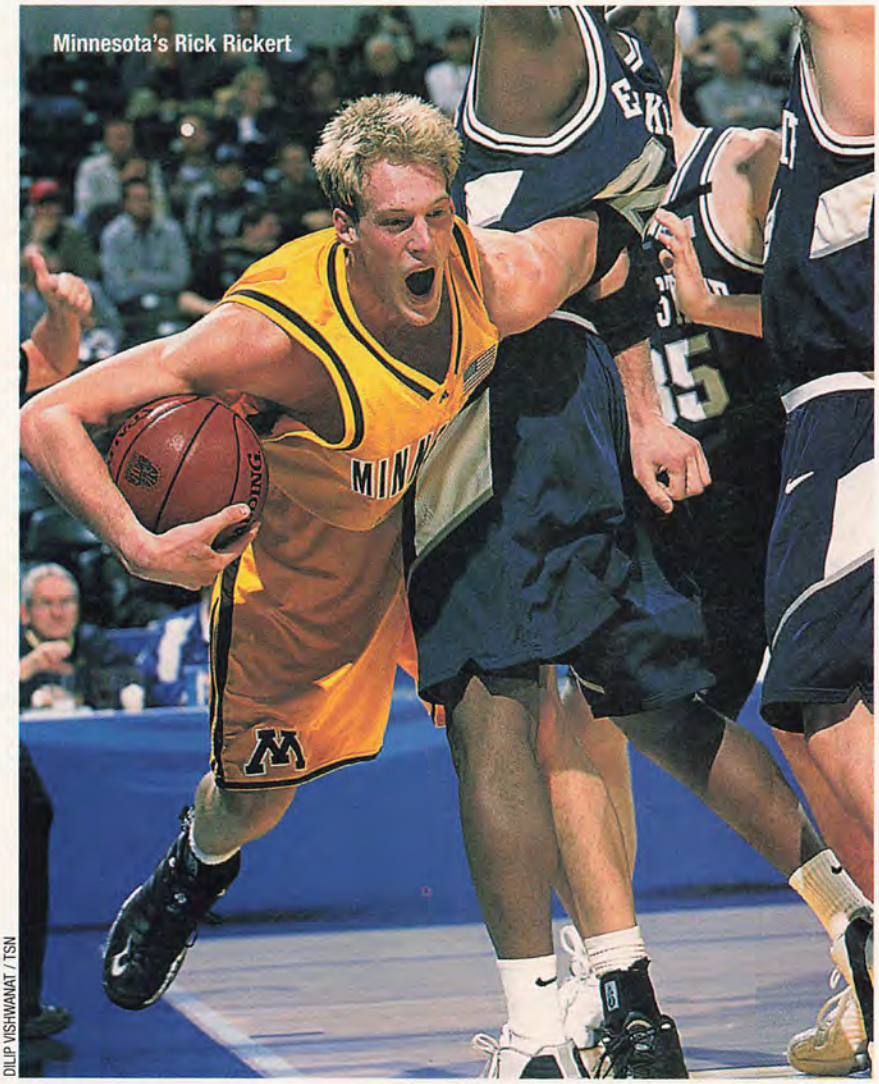
Rick Rickert, Minnesota

Newcomer of the Year

Bracey Wright, G, Indiana

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Sharif Chambliss, Penn State
Best playmaker: Tom Coverdale, Indiana
Best dunker: Brian Cook, Illinois
Best NBA prospect: LaVell Blanchard, Michigan
Most likely to blossom: Rick Rickert, Minnesota
Best defender: Al Anagonye, Michigan St.
Best rebounder: Adam Ballinger, Michigan St.
Best game coach: Tom Izzo, Michigan St.
Most versatile: Alan Anderson, Michigan St.
Will take a charge: Tom Coverdale, Indiana



Minnesota's Rick Rickert

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. **Michigan State:** Paul Davis is a terrific big man. Matt Trannon will join team after football.
2. **Illinois:** Loss of Frank Williams helped Illinois land Gs Dee Brown and Deron Williams.
3. **Indiana:** Bracey Wright, Marshall Strickland give IU one of its deepest recent backcourts.
4. **Michigan:** Gs Daniel Horton, Lester Abram should provide immediate help.
5. **Iowa:** G Jeff Horner (Iowa's Mr. Basketball), F Greg Brunner highlight a strong class.
6. **Ohio State:** JC transfer Shun Jenkins should bolster an already talented frontcourt.
7. **Northwestern:** PG T.J. Parker was the coup but G Mohamed Hachad could also be big.
8. **Wisconsin:** Austrian big man Andreas Helmigk (6-9, 245) is the wild card.
9. **Purdue:** Chris Booker, a 6-10 JC transfer, should make a quick impact in the post.
10. **Minnesota:** The best of three newcomers may be 6-7 F Stan Gaines of Chicago.
11. **Penn State:** G/F DeForrest Riley and PG Brandon Cameron should see significant time.

history to lead the Big Ten in scoring and assists in league play. Converted shooting guard Chris Hill, a Wooden Award Preseason All-American, likely will run the show early on, but junior college transfer Rashi Johnson will get every chance to take over the point guard position. Johnson is not the scorer Taylor was, but Izzo loves his toughness.

3. Frank Williams, Illinois. Williams took his share of criticism, especially for lacking consistent competitive fire. But there was no questioning the point guard's ability. In an "off" year, Williams still averaged 16.2 points and 4.4 assists. Freshmen Dee Brown, a McDonald's All-American, and Deron Williams, a talented Texan, are the heir apparents.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Adam Ballinger, Michigan State. Ballinger, known to his teammates simply as "Balls," doesn't wow anyone with athleticism. But the 6-9 senior forward is the heart and soul of Izzo's operation, a fierce rebounder and resourceful scorer who also can stick the 3-pointer. The Bluffton, Ind., native averaged 11.2 points and 6.8 rebounds a year ago.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Steve Alford, Iowa. With a contract that runs through 2009, his job probably isn't on the line yet. But after three consecutive losing seasons in the Big Ten—one more than predecessor Tom Davis had in 13 seasons—the Hawkeye faithful are restless for results. Last season's collapse ranked among the most disappointing in school history. Iowa expected to contend for the crown with Luke Recker and Reggie Evans. Instead, the Hawkeyes imploded and finished in a three-way tie for eighth place. Alford's clean-cut, sharpshooting pedigree might wear thin in Iowa City if he can't deliver some meaningful victories soon.

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Willie Deane	Purdue	17.3
Kirk Penney	Wisconsin	15.1
LaVell Blanchard	Michigan	14.8
Sharif Chambliss	Penn State	14.6
Rick Rickert	Minnesota	14.2

Name	School	APG
Austin Parkinson	Purdue	4.8
Tom Coverdale	Indiana	4.8
Kevin Burleson	Minnesota	4.7
Brandon Watkins	Penn State	4.1
Avery Queen	Michigan	3.3

Name	School	RPG
Adam Ballinger	Michigan State	6.8
Brian Cook	Illinois	6.7
LaVell Blanchard	Michigan	6.3
Al Anagonye	Michigan State	6.3
Jan Jagla	Penn State	5.8

Name	School	FG%
Zach Williams	Ohio State	56.0
Jerry Holman	Minnesota	55.4
Adam Ballinger	Michigan State	54.5
Brian Cook	Illinois	50.9
Rick Rickert	Minnesota	50.5

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Ohio State	11	5	24	8	15	2	9	6
Illinois	11	5	26	9	13	1	13	8
Indiana	11	5	25	12	10	1	15	11
Wisconsin	11	5	19	13	12	1	7	12
Michigan State	10	6	19	12	15	2	4	10
Minnesota	9	7	18	13	14	4	4	9
Northwestern	7	9	16	13	10	3	6	10
Iowa	5	11	19	16	13	4	6	12
Purdue	5	11	13	18	11	4	2	14
Michigan	5	11	11	18	9	6	2	12
Penn State	3	13	7	21	6	8	1	13

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Team stats

Total offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Illinois	35	47.0	74.0	36.7	36.1	16.9	7.4	4.0	14.6	77.4
Minnesota	31	46.8	70.6	34.7	36.1	15.8	8.1	4.8	14.4	75.2
Ohio State	32	48.5	67.5	37.6	32.9	15.1	6.0	2.3	13.2	73.8
Iowa	35	45.7	69.3	37.7	37.0	14.5	7.2	3.4	15.4	72.6
Purdue	31	44.3	70.3	36.1	31.9	14.0	6.2	3.2	15.0	71.1
Indiana	37	46.0	69.4	41.1	35.2	14.8	6.9	5.2	13.7	70.5
Michigan State	31	46.2	77.1	39.3	37.5	14.1	5.0	3.0	14.9	69.4
Michigan	29	43.3	75.4	34.1	31.3	12.7	3.1	5.3	14.2	67.3
Wisconsin	32	43.6	71.9	35.6	32.2	12.7	5.9	1.9	12.9	67.0
Penn State	28	39.4	69.6	34.4	30.0	12.9	5.4	3.6	15.4	63.5
Northwestern	29	41.8	60.5	33.6	30.7	14.5	7.6	3.2	13.3	59.6

Total defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Northwestern	29	40.8	63.2	32.7	36.2	13.8	6.9	3.6	15.2	59.1
Indiana	37	40.8	66.2	35.9	33.5	11.1	7.1	3.7	14.0	62.6
Michigan State	31	39.5	72.2	29.8	29.6	12.6	7.2	3.4	11.1	63.8
Ohio State	32	43.8	70.1	32.1	29.8	12.6	5.0	3.4	15.0	64.9
Wisconsin	32	45.6	68.5	34.8	32.4	12.4	6.5	3.1	13.6	65.7
Illinois	35	41.6	66.3	34.0	31.9	12.8	5.6	2.9	15.4	67.7
Iowa	35	42.2	71.1	33.8	31.6	13.4	7.2	3.3	14.6	68.1
Minnesota	31	41.7	72.4	35.0	33.2	14.0	7.1	3.6	15.7	69.4
Michigan	29	46.6	69.3	39.2	34.3	15.3	3.1	5.7	14.0	70.8
Purdue	31	47.2	67.9	36.7	33.6	14.1	6.3	3.4	15.6	71.5
Penn State	28	48.5	69.9	34.4	36.0	14.4	7.8	3.8	13.5	72.5

BEST BETS: Tom Izzo's Spartans will lead the league in rebounding—and toughness—yet again. … Izzo will question his Spartans' rebounding and toughness at least 27 times. … The Big Ten fashion police will finally bust Bill Self for that blaze orange suit coat. … The Big Ten Tournament, in its sixth year, will crown a fifth different champion. … Iowa will make its annual late charge through the league tournament. … Gene Keady's age (66) will become an issue if Purdue stumbles out of the gate. … A Big Ten team will advance to the Final Four for the fifth consecutive season. **TSN**

National Rank 10

1. Michigan State

WHAT WE LIKE: Plenty. Tom Izzo's Spartans are deep, talented and determined to reclaim their spot as a national power. Early NBA departures forced freshmen Chris Hill, Alan Anderson and Kelvin Torbert to play big-time minutes last season. That trio learned some hard lessons as MSU lost its four-year grip on the league crown, but the pain endured should pay dividends this season. Hill, a 6-3 combo guard, was the least heralded but most productive freshman, averaging 11.5 points and filling in admirably at the point. He has beefed up and is ready for a breakout year. Anderson, a 6-6 swingman, played every position except center last year. He is a strong defender who can slash to the hoop and has improved his outside shot. Torbert, TSN's High School Player of the Year in 2000-01, hopes to rebound from a disappointing offensive season. Izzo has made defense and rebounding the foundation of his program and this season shouldn't be any different. The Spartans, who averaged eight more rebounds than their foes last year, are rock-solid up front again with seniors Adam Ballinger and Al Anagonye. Ballinger is MSU's steadiest performer, a player who can knock down a 3 or scrap inside. The 255-pound Anagonye is a fierce rebounder and a force down low when he stays out of foul trouble. MSU will get help inside from junior Jason Andreas and blue-chip recruit Paul Davis.

Schedule

N22 UNC Asheville
N27-30 Gr. Alaska S.O.
D4 Virginia
D8 Cleveland State
D14 at Kentucky
D17 Loyola (Ill.)
D21 South Florida
D28 Jacksonville State
D30 Toledo
J4 Oklahoma*
J9 Ohio State
J11 at Iowa
J14 at Purdue
J18 at Minnesota
J22 Penn State
J26 at Michigan
J28 Indiana
F2 Illinois
F8 at Indiana
F11 at Wisconsin
F15 Northwestern
F18 at Illinois
F23 Syracuse
F26 Minnesota
M1 Purdue
M5 Iowa
M8 or 9 at Ohio St.
*at Oklahoma City, Okla.

WHAT SCARES US: The point guard position. Marcus Taylor, who led the Big Ten in scoring and assists in league play, bolted to the NBA after just two seasons, so the Spartans are looking for a leader. JC transfer Rashi Johnson gets first crack at the point after Hill, a converted shooting guard. Johnson is a pass-first, penetrating point guard cut from the Mateen Cleaves mold that Izzo loves. He's quick. He's tough. And, unlike Taylor, he'll enjoy a seasoned supporting cast. The questions are whether Johnson can adjust to a higher level of competition and handle the spotlight. Izzo is tough on his point guards, who must push the ball upcourt, orchestrate a complex halfcourt set and defend. If Johnson can cut it, Hill will be free to bomb away from the shooting guard spot and back up the point when needed. The other big concern is scoring. Nothing came easy last season as the Spartans averaged 69.4 points (seventh in the league). Izzo wants more steals—MSU was last a year ago—to generate fast-break buckets and take the pressure off the halfcourt offense. Michigan State also needs more post scoring, either from Davis or Anagonye.

X FACTORS: Johnson is the biggest. His transition to major college basketball won't be seamless. But if he can blend in and run the show, this team is bound for big things. Beyond that, fans wonder if Torbert will wake up. He played strong defense and his numbers—8.2 points and 3.4 rebounds—were fine for most freshmen. But Torbert showed little of the high-flying explosiveness that was promised. Finally, the return of forward Adam Wolfe still is uncertain. Wolfe was averaging 9.4 points and 5.0 rebounds before a hamstring injury ended his season last January. If he can work his way back, MSU could use his experience and 3-point shooting.

A BIG TEN COACH SAYS...

Do they replace Marcus Taylor with the junior college kid (Rashi Johnson)—and how good is he? If they use Chris Hill at the point, he's a heck of a player, but he's not super quick. He couldn't move his feet and wasn't a ball-handler. They were so young last year you could see they weren't a (typical) Michigan State team. Kelvin Torbert had a tough year, but he's a talent. The rest of those guys are going to be better. Defensively, they should improve.

Chris Hill

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Spartans Data

Coach: Tom Izzo (167-65, 7 years; 16-4 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Brian Gregory (3 years), Mike Garland (6), Mark Montgomery (1).
2001-2002 record: 19-12. Big 10-10-6/5th. Lost to NC State in NCAA East first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 14.
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: East Lansing, Mich.
Website: www.msuspartans.com
Home court: Breslin Center (14,759).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
13	G	Maurice Ager	6-4/175	Fr.	Great leaping ability will help team.					
25	**F**	**Al Anagonye***	**6-8/255**	**Sr.**	**7.7**	**6.3**	**0.2**	**50.0**	**72.1**	**—**
15	**F**	**Alan Anderson***	**6-6/230**	**So.**	**6.5**	**4.2**	**1.6**	**45.0**	**77.0**	**40.0**
44	C	Jason Andreas	6-10/245	Jr.	2.6	2.9	0.5	54.1	73.7	—
55	**F**	**Adam Ballinger***	**6-9/250**	**Sr.**	**11.2**	**6.8**	**1.1**	**54.5**	**86.4**	**37.3**
30	G	Tim Bograkos	6-2/185	So.	1.4	1.9	0.5	56.3	46.2	50.0
40	C	Paul Davis	6-10/235	Fr.	Named Michigan's Mr. Basketball.					
5	**G**	**Chris Hill**	**6-3/185**	**So.**	**11.5**	**3.2**	**2.1**	**48.8**	**75.8**	**44.6**
11	G	Rashi Johnson	6-2/195	Jr.	Led Mott CC to '01 JC D-II title game.					
41	F	Erazem Lorbek	6-8/220	Fr.	Versatile player from Slovenia.					
50	F	Delco Rowley	6-8/235	Fr.	Was a standout at Nike camp.					
23	**G**	**Kelvin Torbert***	**6-4/224**	**So.**	**8.2**	**3.4**	**1.5**	**39.9**	**80.6**	**31.6**
1	F	Matt Trannon	6-7/215	Fr.	Also will play WR on football team.					
52	F	Brian Westrick	6-6/220	Sr.	0.8	0.5	0.0	66.7	42.9	—
3	F	Adam Wolfe	6-9/230	Jr.	9.4	5.0	0.4	46.7	82.9	46.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Marcus Taylor*	6-3/190	16.8	2.9	5.2	40.0	81.3	36.1

National Rank 23

2. Indiana

WHAT WE LIKE: These guys can chuck it. Forget Gene Hackman's fictional *Hoosiers*. Mike Davis' crew is full of deadeye shooters who could give Jimmy Chitwood a run for his money. Indiana led the league by making 41 percent of its 3-point tries last year, burying teams such as Michigan State and Illinois on its way to a share of the Big Ten crown. After reaching the NCAA title game last year, the Hoosiers have no plans to let up. Dane Fife is gone, but sharpshooting guards Tom Coverdale (37 percent from 3-point range), Kyle Hornsby (44.7 percent) and A.J. Moye (40 percent) return. Coverdale, a 6-2 senior, will set the pace for Indiana from the point guard position. Hornsby, a 6-5 senior who has blossomed under Davis, offers solid all-around play and Moye, a 6-3 junior, is a spark plug. Indiana will run plenty of three-guard sets. The trio is joined in the backcourt by freshmen Bracey Wright, a blue-chip recruit from Texas, and Marshall Strickland. Still, the Hoosiers can do more than shoot. Indiana was the league's second-best defensive unit last year, surrendering just 62.6 points per game, and led the Big Ten in blocked shots. The interior defense should prove intimidating again with shot swatters Jeff Newton (70 blocks) and George Leach (48) patrolling the paint. Davis is emerging as one of the college game's best young coaches and will make the inside-outside combination work.

Schedule

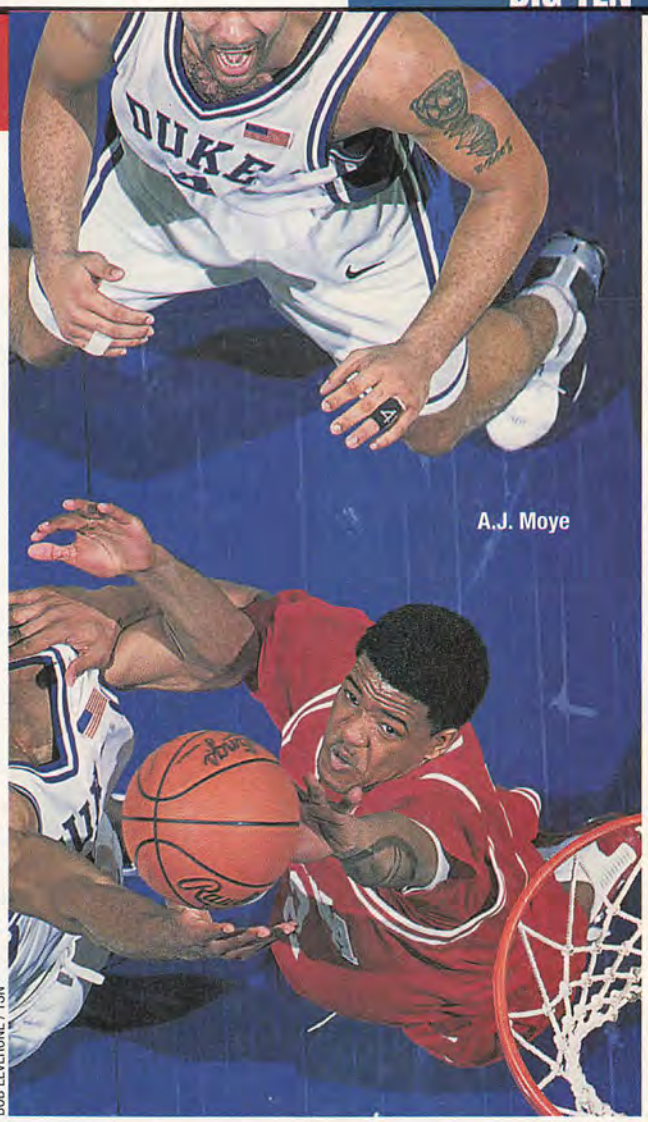
N25-27 Maui Invitational
D3 Maryland*
D7 at Illinois-Chicago
D10 at Vanderbilt
D14 Purdue*
D21 Kentucky**
D31 at Ball State
J4 at Charlotte
J8 Penn State
J11 at Ohio State
J15 Northwestern
J18 Illinois
J21 Ohio State
J25 at Purdue
J28 at Michigan
F1 at Louisville
F5 at Northwestern
F8 Michigan State
F12 at Michigan
F15 at Wisconsin
F19 at Iowa
F25 at Illinois
M1 Iowa
M4 Minnesota
M8 or 9 Penn State
*at Indianapolis, Ind.
**at Louisville, Ky.

WHAT SCARES US: The departure of Jared Jeffries, the Big Ten Player of the Year as a sophomore, to the NBA, will hurt. Jeffries was a force on both ends of the floor and was hugely responsible for Indiana's 3-point shooting success last season. Jeffries hit 38 percent from behind the arc but was truly valuable because he commanded double-teams inside and then kicked the ball out to open shooters. Without Jeffries, Indiana's perimeter players will have to work harder for open 3-pointers. Rebounding also is a major concern without Jeffries and Jarrad Odle. Newton and Leach must get stronger on the glass for Indiana to compete. On the perimeter, Coverdale and Moye are recovering from injuries. Coverdale appears to be back from two ankle injuries suffered during the Final Four run. Moye underwent rotator cuff surgery in the offseason but was progressing well. If the roster shapes up, keep an eye how this team responds to new expectations. The stakes are always high in the hoops-crazy Hoosier state, but last year's magical run only will ratchet up the pressure. Is a suitable sequel even possible without Jeffries?

X FACTORS: Newton, a senior, and Leach, a junior, must respond to the prime-time roles formerly played by Jeffries and Odle. Indiana has one of its deepest and most talented backcourts in recent memory, but if the big men don't deliver, the Hoosiers aren't going anywhere. Wright, a McDonald's All-American, and Strickland could be a huge help. Wright made almost 50 percent of his 3-pointers in high school and has impressive range. Also, Davis, who signed a fat new contract extension during the offseason, must prove last season was no fluke.

A BIG TEN COACH SAYS...

Losing Jared Jeffries and Jarrad Odle, they need some help in the frontline. Sean Kline is a huge part of the puzzle. Without him, they would be a little soft inside. Jeffries was big for them, but they have the threats from the perimeter. Can the kid Bracey Wright make an impact? He gives them a dimension they really didn't have: A guy who can create his shot and get to the lane. They'll be a different team, but they can be as effective.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Hoosiers Data

Coach: Mike Davis (46-25, 2 years; 5-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: John Treloar (5 years), Jim Thomas (1), Ben McDonald (1).
2001-2002 record: 25-12. Big Ten: 11-5/T1st. Lost to Maryland in NCAA championship game.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 33.
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1985.
Site: Bloomington, Ind.
Website: www.iuhoosiers.com
Home court: Assembly Hall (17,484).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
3	**G**	**Tom Coverdale***	**6-2/185**	**Sr.**	**11.9**	**3.2**	**4.8**	**41.7**	**78.8**	**37.0**
32	**F**	**Kyle Hornsby***	**6-5/205**	**Sr.**	**7.7**	**2.6**	**1.9**	**42.9**	**55.2**	**44.7**
23	F	Sean Kline	6-8/210	Fr.	Top 50 recruit who redshirted last year.					
5	**C**	**George Leach**	**6-11/225**	**Jr.**	**2.8**	**2.5**	**0.3**	**50.0**	**51.4**	**—**
2	**G**	**A.J. Moye**	**6-3/215**	**Jr.**	**5.9**	**3.1**	**0.6**	**47.9**	**80.5**	**40.0**
50	**F**	**Jeff Newton**	**6-9/210**	**Sr.**	**8.1**	**5.1**	**0.8**	**49.6**	**73.7**	**50.0**
31	F	Daryl Pegram	6-9/193	Fr.	Averaged. 9.2 rpg and 3 bpg as a senior.					
12	G	Donald Perry	6-2/170	So.	2.6	1.4	1.1	37.8	63.4	22.6
33	F	Mike Roberts	6-9/210	So.	Redshirt played 10 games in 2000-01.					
22	G	Marshall Strickland	6-2/185	Fr.	Averaged 30.5 ppg, 52% FGs as a senior.					
10	G	Roderick Wilmont	6-4/185	Fr.	First-team all-state in Florida.					
4	G	Bracey Wright	6-3/185	Fr.	Led West with 16 pts in McDonald's game.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Dane Fife*	6-4/200	8.7	2.6	2.5	46.1	70.2	47.8
F	Jarrad Odle*	6-8/220	8.8	5.0	0.7	54.0	62.0	44.4
F	Jared Jeffries*	6-10/215	15.0	7.6	2.1	45.7	66.7	38.0

3. Minnesota

National Rank 32

WHAT WE LIKE: This team is loaded with size and speed. The best of the bunch is power forward Rick Rickert, who earned Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors last year and is a favorite to be named player of the year as a sophomore. At 6-11, Rickert creates matchup nightmares because he runs and shoots too well for big defenders and overpowers smaller foes. Along with Rickert, three part-time starters return: shot-swatting center Jerry Holman, part-time point guard Kevin Burleson and forward Michael Bauer. Toss in junior guard Ben Johnson, a talented transfer from Northwestern who sat out last year, and it's easy to see why Dan Monson's crew has the rest of the league sweating.

WHAT SCARES US: The Gophers could find themselves hurting for leadership after losing three solid starters, including Travarus Bennett, a Big Ten co-Defensive Player of the Year. Monson knows his squad needs more consistent guard play after the team blew several late leads during a late-season swoon that knocked it out of Big Ten contention a year ago. That task falls on Burleson, Johnson and key reserves such as sophomore Maurice Hargrow. Can Minnesota live up to the hype? Nearly everyone has this year pegged as the breakthrough season for Monson, who put Gonzaga on the national map with a run to the NCAA's Elite Eight in 1999. But for the first time, the Gophers face the challenge of delivering under the weight of expectations.

X FACTORS: How will Johnson, a double-digit scorer during his two years with the Wildcats, blend into the backcourt? If he produces, Minnesota could prove unstoppable. Another big question is the development of a deep bench. Jeff Hagen and Steve Esselink lead a crew of reserves that must contribute for Minnesota to push the ball and play the intense defense Monson loves.

Golden Gophers Data

Coach: Dan Monson (48-43, 3 years; 100-60 overall, 5 years; 3-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Mike Peterson (3 years), Vic Couch (1st), Bill Walker (3).
2001-2002 record: 18-13. Big Ten: 9-7/6th. Lost to Richmond in NIT second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 65.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Minneapolis.
Website: www.gophersports.com
Home court: Williams Arena (14,625).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
41	**F**	**Michael Bauer***	**6-8/216**	**Jr.**	**9.4**	**3.6**	**1.3**	**43.1**	**76.0**	**35.1**
12	**G**	**Kevin Burleson***	**6-3/185**	**Sr.**	**6.6**	**2.2**	**4.7**	**36.8**	**76.6**	**28.3**
23	G	Kris Collins	6-2/200	So.	JC transfer averaged 16.6 ppg last season.					
31	F	Steve Esselink	6-6/195	Jr.	2.3	0.8	0.9	43.3	50.0	35.5
21	F	Stan Gaines	6-7/226	Fr.	SF is a good leaper, inside player.					
42	C	Jeff Hagen	6-11/265	So.	Redshirt was awarded a scholarship.					
11	G	Maurice Hargrow	6-4/187	So.	3.6	1.2	0.7	44.4	74.2	26.3
40	**F/C**	**Jerry Holman**	**6-10/222**	**Sr.**	**8.8**	**3.9**	**1.0**	**55.4**	**56.9**	**—**
22	**G**	**Ben Johnson**	**6-3/185**	**Jr.**	**A two-year starter at Northwestern.**					
15	C	Aliou Kane	6-9/243	Fr.	First-team all-state in Texas.					
25	G	Brent Lawson	6-4/200	So.	Transferred from St. Francis (Penn.)					
1	**F**	**Rick Rickert***	**6-11/216**	**So.**	**14.2**	**5.2**	**1.5**	**50.5**	**70.5**	**36.9**
3	G	Aaron Robinson	5-10/165	So.	0.8	0.6	0.7	20.0	53.8	16.7
52	F	Matt Smriga	6-8/255	So.	Transferred from Kent State.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Travarus Bennett*	6-7/205	9.5	5.6	1.7	51.4	77.4	46.9
G	Kerwin Fleming	6-3/180	7.1	2.4	1.5	36.6	67.1	32.9
F	Dusty Rychart*	6-7/210	13.1	6.6	2.0	55.3	76.5	35.9

Schedule

N24	UNC Asheville	D14	Fairleigh Dickinson	J18	Michigan State
N30	Georgia	D22	at Oregon	J22	at Michigan
D4	Georgia Tech	D28	Texas Tech	J25	Northwestern
D6	Bethune-Cookman	J2	Oral Roberts	J29	at Penn State
D8	at Nebraska	J4	Sacred Heart	F1	Michigan
D10	Ark.-Little Rock	J7	Illinois	F5	at Ohio State
		J15	at Wisconsin	F8	Purdue
				F12	Iowa
				F19	at Northwestern
				F22	Penn State
				F25	at Michigan State
				M2	Wisconsin
				M4	at Indiana
				M8	at Illinois

4. Wisconsin

National Rank 41

WHAT WE LIKE: Senior Kirk Penney is the league's lone returning first-team all-Big Ten selection. A 6-5 shooting guard, he creates and exploits mismatches in the post with his size. He also is a deadly 3-point shooter and talented penetrator. Devin Harris, Wisconsin's second-leading scorer last season, takes over at point guard. Dave Mader, a 6-11 junior center, and Mike Wilkinson, a 6-8 sophomore who led the team in rebounding, provide a solid presence down low. Coach Bo Ryan lived a dream during his first season in Madison, leading the Badgers to a share of their first league crown in 55 years.

WHAT SCARES US: This team is young. Penney is the lone senior on a squad that surprised everyone with its success last year. There are six freshmen on the 14-man roster, and none is considered a blue-chipper. Losing Charlie Wills is a blow to the Badgers, who lack experienced bodies inside. Wisconsin also has a plodding offense that ranked ninth in the league last season at 67 points per game. Ryan wants his club to push the ball more and pounce on chances to score quickly in the halfcourt game. Finally, can Wisconsin win on the road? Though it clinched a share of the title with two big late-season road victories—at Minnesota and Indiana—and also won at Michigan State, the Badgers were just 7-12 away from the cozy Kohl Center last year.

X FACTORS: The development of the newcomers, especially Andreas Helmigk of Austria and Jason Chappell, will be important. The starters—Penney, Wilkinson, Mader, Harris and Freddie Owens—look solid. But the fresh faces will determine the quality of the bench. The other key question is whether Wisconsin, which was overpowered by Illinois last season, has enough inside depth to survive the Big Ten wars.

Badgers Data

Coach: Bo Ryan (19-13, 1 year; 49-40, 3 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Rob Jeter (1 year), Tony Bennett (2), Greg Gard (1).
2001-2002 record: 19-13. Big Ten: 11-5/T1st. Lost to Maryland in NCAA East second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 94.
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Madison, Wis.
Website: www.uwbadgers.com
Home court: Kohl Center (17,142).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
32	F	Deandre Buchanan	6-5/195	So.	1.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	—	—
5	F/C	Jason Chappell	6-10/230	Fr.	A big man with a shooter's touch.					
13	G	Clayton Hanson	6-5/185	So.	0.9	9.3	0.1	33.3	100.0	22.2
34	**G**	**Devin Harris***	**6-3/185**	**So.**	**12.3**	**3.3**	**1.8**	**41.3**	**77.7**	**36.6**
21	F	Andreas Helmigk	6-9/245	Fr.	Austrian redshirted last year with knee injury.					
4	F	Ray Nixon	6-8/205	Fr.	One of nine Badgers from Wisconsin.					
30	**C**	**Dave Mader***	**6-11/255**	**Jr.**	**3.0**	**2.6**	**0.7**	**41.8**	**66.7**	**—**
1	G	Marcetteaus McGee	6-1/175	Fr.	Charged with sexual assault in July.					
24	**G**	**Freddie Owens**	**6-2/185**	**Jr.**	**8.1**	**2.7**	**0.9**	**45.0**	**60.0**	**36.4**
20	**G**	**Kirk Penney***	**6-5/220**	**Sr.**	**15.1**	**4.9**	**1.7**	**45.4**	**76.8**	**38.5**
42	G/F	Alando Tucker	6-5/195	Fr.	Athletic swingman should help team.					
3	G	Ike Ukawuba	6-3/175	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.3	—	—	—
12	G	Maurice Wade	6-3/185	Fr.	Talented guard can play 1, 2 or 3 spot.					
54	**F**	**Mike Wilkinson**	**6-8/235**	**So.**	**9.3**	**5.3**	**1.5**	**44.3**	**75.6**	**33.3**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Travon Davis*	5-10/180	7.8	4.3	3.9	41.1	67.0	28.8
G/F	Neil Plank	6-5/200	Transferred to Illinois State.					
F	Charlie Wills*	6-8/230	10.2	5.2	1.8	47.7	66.0	37.3

Schedule

N15-16	NABC Classic	D14	at Marquette	J15	Minnesota
N23	Wis.-Milwaukee	D21	Texas Southern	J18	at Ohio State
N30	at Wis.-Green Bay	D23	Ohio	J22	Iowa
D4	Wake Forest	D28	at Temple	J29	Northwestern
D7	UNLV	J4	Chicago State	F1	Penn State
D11	New Hampshire	J8	at Michigan	F5	at Purdue
		J11	at Illinois	F8	at Northwestern
				F11	Michigan State
				F15	Indiana
				F19	at Penn State
				F22	at Iowa
				F26	Michigan
				M2	at Minnesota
				M5	Illinois

5. Ohio State

National Rank 47

WHAT WE LIKE: The Buckeyes have a young but promising front line. Yeah, we know, it's usually about the guards with Jim O'Brien's teams—and he has a pair of good ones in seniors Brent Darby and Sean Connolly. But the Buckeyes could balance out a bit this season behind a talented trio of inside players: juniors Zach Williams and Velimir Radinovic and sophomore Terence Dials. A co-captain as a sophomore, the 6-7 Williams chipped in 9.6 points and 5.8 rebounds for the Big Ten Tournament champion. Radinovic, a 7-foot center, is looking for a breakout year. Dials, at 6-9, is a big-time dunker and gritty rebounder. OK, back to the guards: Darby, a veteran scorer who averaged 12.8 points last year, should assume control of the team with Brian Brown and Boban Savovic gone.

WHAT SCARES US: There is little depth on the perimeter behind Darby and Connolly. Sophomore Brandon Fuss-Cheatham can help at point guard—freeing Darby to score more—and redshirt freshman Matt Sylvester is in the mix. But the Buckeyes took a hit when incoming recruit Ricardo Billings failed to qualify academically. Emonte Jernigan, a transfer from Oregon State who is eligible immediately, might soften the blow. Free-throw shooting is a potential pitfall. The Buckeyes were one of the Big Ten's worst from the foul line a year ago, sinking just 68 percent.

X FACTORS: Can Ohio State develop an inside-outside offensive attack and rely less heavily on its perimeter personnel? Darby, a streaky but talented shooter, must run the show wisely. And Connolly, an East Coast kid who transferred from Providence, also must take on a bigger role. If the guards and big men click, O'Brien might set school records by logging a 20-win season and NCAA Tournament berth for the fifth consecutive season.

Buckeyes Data

Coach: Jim O'Brien (102-57, 5 years; 337-274 overall, 20 years; 11-7 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Paul Biancardi (5 years), LaMonta Stone (1st), Monte Mathis (1).
2001-2002 record: 24-8. Big Ten: 11-5/T1st. Lost to Missouri in NCAA West second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 43.
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Columbus, Ohio.
Website: www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com
Home court: Value City Arena (19,200).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
1	C/F	Charles Bass	6-10/190	Fr.	Athleticism, long arms will get him P.T.					
2	G	B. Fuss-Cheatham	6-1/190	So.	1.2	0.8	1.1	21.7	60.0	11.1
3	**G**	**Sean Connolly**	**6-5/210**	**Sr.**	**6.3**	**2.3**	**1.8**	**43.0**	**65.1**	**36.7**
4	**G**	**Brent Darby***	**6-1/195**	**Sr.**	**12.8**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**42.1**	**78.5**	**37.2**
34	**F/C**	**Terence Dials**	**6-9/240**	**So.**	**6.7**	**4.2**	**0.5**	**52.3**	**59.2**	**—**
23	G	Ryan Heflin	5-10/180	Sr.	1.1	0.2	0.5	62.5	50.0	33.3
50	F	Shun Jenkins	6-6/235	Jr.	PF will help fortify improving frontcourt.					
	G	Emonte Jernigan	6-2/200	Jr.	Started part time at Oregon State in '00-01.					
54	C	Matt Marinchick	6-10/240	So.	1.7	0.7	0.2	46.2	70.0	0.0
14	**C**	**Velimir Radinovic***	**7-0/230**	**Jr.**	**3.8**	**2.6**	**0.1**	**55.4**	**69.8**	**—**
24	G	Shaun Smith	5-10/180	Sr.	0.9	0.2	0.1	100.0	75.0	100.0
40	F	Matt Sylvester	6-7/200	Fr.	Redshirted after playing 3 games last year.					
33	**F**	**Zach Williams***	**6-7/230**	**Jr.**	**9.6**	**5.8**	**1.3**	**56.0**	**60.6**	**—**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Brian Brown*	6-4/200	16.3	4.0	3.3	49.2	75.9	38.6
F	Will Dudley	6-8/230	2.3	1.4	1.0	49.2	45.2	—
F	Tim Martin	6-6/240	1.8	1.9	0.3	57.9	35.3	—
G	Boban Savovic*	6-5/240	11.9	3.6	3.6	44.7	70.8	40.0

Schedule

N25	Coppin State	D23	Radford	J21	at Indiana	F22	Purdue
N29	Alabama*	D28	Tennessee State	J25	at Iowa	F25	Iowa
D3	Duke**	D30	Hampton	J29	at Purdue	M5	at Northwestern
D7	Tennessee Tech	J4	Louisville	F1	Northwestern	M8	or 9 Michigan State
D14	Morehead State	J9	at Michigan State	F5	Minnesota	*at Springfield, Mass.	
D18	at Pittsburgh	J11	Indiana	F9	at Illinois	**at Greensboro, N.C.	
D21	Seton Hall	J15	Michigan	F12	at Penn State		
		J18	Wisconsin	F15	at Michigan		

6. Illinois

National Rank 50

WHAT WE LIKE: Brian Cook, a 6-10 senior, is one of the league's most dangerous forces down low. A year ago, he ranked fourth in the Big Ten in rebounding (6.7 per game) and was the Illini's second-leading scorer, at 13.5 points per game. Cook can step outside well for a post player, sinking 36.5 percent of his 3-pointers. He also gets to the foul line, where he's a near-automatic 87.3 percent. Sophomore guard Luther Head is the only other returning starter. But several others boast some starting experience, including senior Sean Harrington, a long-range gunner who hit almost 40 percent from behind the arc.

WHAT SCARES US: The sheer attrition. After winning a share of consecutive league crowns for the first time since 1951-1952, Illinois lost star point guard Frank Williams and four other long-time contributors. Also gone are Cory Bradford, Robert Archibald, Lucas Johnson and Damir Krupalija. Johnson might be the biggest loss after Williams. Though his statistics weren't impressive, the gritty forward did all the dirty work. For the first time in his reign at Illinois, coach Bill Self (two straight Sweet 16 appearances) must deal with massive turnover. He has plenty of talent—bolstered by a standout five-man recruiting class—but faces the huge challenge of reinventing his club.

X FACTORS: How quickly can blue-chip guards Dee Brown and Deron Williams and three other newcomers develop? And can former bit players such as Head, Harrington, sophomore Roger Powell and senior Blandon Ferguson shoulder added responsibility in the harsh spotlight? Self has set the bar high during his short time in Champaign. Now, his charges must live up to the challenge. If Brown and Williams successfully punch the fast-forward button on their progress, the Illini might not fall in the standings.

Illini Data

Coach: Bill Self (53-17, 2 years; 182-98 overall, 9 years; 9-4 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Norm Roberts (2 years), Billy Gillispie (2), Wayne McClain (1).
2000-2001 record: 26-9. Big Ten: 11-5/T1st. Lost to Kansas in NCAA Midwest semifinals.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 1.
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.
Site: Champaign, Ill.
Website: www.fightingillini.com
Home court: Assembly Hall (16,833).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
40	F	James Augustine	6-10/220	Fr.	adidas ABCD camp all-star team pick.					
11	**G**	**Dee Brown**	**5-11/175**	**Fr.**	**Illinois all-state 1st team as H.S. Jr.**					
34	**F**	**Brian Cook***	**6-10/240**	**Sr.**	**13.5**	**6.7**	**1.3**	**50.9**	**87.3**	**36.5**
23	F	Blandon Ferguson	6-3/220	Sr.	2.2	1.5	0.6	38.3	75.0	0.0
24	**G**	**Sean Harrington**	**6-3/185**	**Sr.**	**6.4**	**1.7**	**2.5**	**41.0**	**72.4**	**39.7**
4	**G**	**Luther Head***	**6-3/170**	**So.**	**4.5**	**1.9**	**1.7**	**50.8**	**56.0**	**29.1**
25	G	Jerrance Howard	6-1/190	Jr.	1.0	0.6	0.7	38.9	100.0	28.6
43	F	Roger Powell	6-6/215	So.	2.9	1.8	0.1	54.0	61.1	60.0
45	**C**	**Nick Smith**	**7-2/240**	**So.**	**3.8**	**2.2**	**0.6**	**53.8**	**65.9**	**0.0**
1	F	Aaron Spears	6-9/240	Fr.	Illinois all-state 1st team. Avg: 27 pg, 15 rpg.					
5	G	Deron Williams	6-3/195	Fr.	One of top H.S. PGs in the country.					
32	F	Kyle Wilson	6-8/230	Fr.	Named Texas all-state as H.S. Jr.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Robert Archibald*	6-11/250	10.6	5.5	1.3	65.9	65.4	0.0
G	Cory Bradford*	6-3/200	11.6	3.1	2.5	42.6	76.7	39.2
F	Lucas Johnson	6-8/230	3.8	2.5	1.8	39.5	73.0	29.2
F	Damir Krupalija	6-9/230	7.0	4.7	1.4	58.3	74.0	47.8
G	Brett Melton	6-5/195	Transferred to San Diego.					
G	Frank Williams*	6-3/205	16.2	4.7	4.4	39.3	80.8	34.0

Schedule

N27	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D14	Temple**	J18	at Indiana	F22	at Northwestern
TBA	at Memphis	D21	Missouri***	J22	Purdue	F25	Indiana
D1	Western Illinois	D28	UNC Greensboro	J25	at Penn State	M1	at Michigan
D3	North Carolina	D30	Coppin State	J29	Michigan	M5	at Wisconsin
D7	Arkansas*	J4	Oakland	F2	at Michigan State	M8	Minnesota
D10	Eastern Illinois	J7	at Minnesota	F9	Ohio State	*at Little Rock, Ark.	
		J11	Wisconsin	F15	at Purdue	**at Chicago	
		J15	at Iowa	F18	Michigan State	***at St. Louis	

7. Michigan

National Rank 75

WHAT WE LIKE: Explosive wings LaVell Blanchard and Bernard Robinson Jr. are considered to be two of the league's most talented offensive players. Blanchard, an Ann Arbor native and team captain, is poised for a big season after averaging 14.8 points and shining in the Big Ten tournament. Robinson chipped in 12.1 points a game last season. Sophomore guard Dommanic Ingerson emerged as a 3-point threat. Coach Tommy Amaker's first full class of recruits is a promising one. Daniel Horton and Lester Abram headline a group that is expected to pay immediate dividends.

WHAT SCARES US: Michigan is inexperienced in the post. The team will rely on three freshmen—Chris Hunter, Amadou Ba and perhaps Graham Brown—to replace forward/center Chris Young. Hunter was one of the top high school players in Indiana, Brown was a small-town star in Michigan and Ba is a project originally from Africa. This bunch is bound to suffer its lumps in the bruising Big Ten. The Wolverines' defense also is a concern. Last year, Michigan ranked ninth in the league in points allowed (70.8) and field-goal defense (46.6 percent) and last in 3-point field-goal defense (39.2 percent).

X FACTORS: The newcomers must play well—most notably Horton, a sharpshooting point guard from Texas. Poor point guard play plagued the Wolverines last year. If Horton lives up to his blue-chip billing, he'll take care of the ball and provide some much-needed scoring punch. Abram is a top-notch talent who will play a major role at shooting guard. The other key question: Can Blanchard finally break through and become the star Michigan fans envisioned? If so, Amaker might turn around a program that is a decade removed from its last Final Four and has earned just one NCAA berth in the past six seasons.

Wolverines Data

Coach: Tommy Amaker (11-18, 1 year; 79-73 overall, 5 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Charles Ramsey (1 year), Chuck Swenson (1), Billy Schmidt (1).
2001-2002 record: 11-18. Big Ten: 5-11/T8th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 47.
Last league title: 1986.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Ann Arbor, Mich.
Website: www.mgoblue.com
Home court: Crisler Arena (13,751).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
2	G/F	Lester Abram	6-6/190	Fr.	Versatile lefty led H.S. to two Mich. titles.					
52	F	Rotolu Adebiyi	6-5/225	Sr.	0.6	1.1	0.1	33.3	25.0	0.0
50	C	Amadou Ba	6-10/250	Fr.	Played H.S ball in Alabama and Mass.					
32	F	Chuck Bailey	6-7/220	So.	3.8	3.0	0.3	53.8	52.4	0.0
30	**F**	**LaVell Blanchard***	**6-7/208**	**Sr.**	**14.8**	**6.3**	**1.4**	**43.2**	**83.2**	**35.3**
25	F	Graham Brown	6-9/245	Fr.	On '02 *Detroit Free-Press* all-state 1st team.					
5	F	Colin Dill	6-7/220	Jr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
23	G	Gavin Groninger	6-5/205	Sr.	5.7	1.1	0.7	33.3	86.1	32.4
4	**G**	**Daniel Horton**	**6-3/190**	**Fr.**	**PG was a McDonald's All-American.**					
31	**F/C**	**Chris Hunter**	**6-11/210**	**Fr.**	**Named Indiana's 2002 AP Class 4A MVP.**					
11	**G**	**D. Ingerson**	**6-4/190**	**So.**	**8.1**	**1.7**	**1.1**	**42.0**	**80.6**	**41.9**
1	G	Avery Queen	5-7/165	Jr.	4.3	2.1	3.3	38.2	57.9	30.0
21	**F**	**Bernard Robinson***	**6-6/208**	**Jr.**	**12.1**	**4.6**	**2.4**	**40.9**	**85.5**	**24.5**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F/C	Chris Young*	6-9/220	11.4	5.7	1.2	60.0	79.2	0.0
G	Leon Jones*	6-4/195	5.8	2.5	1.5	35.7	63.0	33.3
F	Herb Gibson	6-5/205	1.2	0.9	0.6	43.8	46.2	0.0
G	Mike Gotfredson*	5-11/175	1.0	0.6	0.9	40.0	—	39.1

Schedule

N23	St. Bonaventure*	D14	Charleston Southern	J15	at Ohio State
N24	Virginia Tech*	D21	Vanderbilt	J18	at Northwestern
N30	Western Michigan	D23	Eastern Michigan	J22	Minnesota
D3	Central Michigan	D28	at UCLA	J26	Michigan State
D7	at Duke	J2	San Francisco	J29	at Illinois
D11	Bowling Green	J4	IUPUI	F1	at Minnesota
		J8	Wisconsin	F8	Iowa
		J11	Penn State	F12	at Indiana
		F15	Ohio State		
		F19	at Purdue		
		F26	at Wisconsin		
		M1	Illinois		
		M5	at Penn State		
		M8	Purdue		
		*at St. Thomas, V.I.			

8. Northwestern

National Rank 81

WHAT WE LIKE: When Bill Carmody arrived from Princeton two seasons ago, he inherited a program that had won five games the previous season. Since then, the Wildcats have gone 11-19 and 16-13. Carmody has squeezed the most from his team's limited size and speed, laying the foundation for the league's best defense, ball control and backdoor cuts. The team returns three starters, including small forward Winston Blake and off-guard Jitim Young. Carmody hopes the arrival of lightning-quick point guard T.J. Parker—brother of San Antonio Spur Tony Parker—will help push the tempo. Carmody wants his squad to score more fast-break buckets and spend less time bogged down in the halfcourt game.

WHAT SCARES US: Can the Wildcats score? Northwestern's slow-down, spread-'em-out attack averaged the fewest points (59.6) in the Big Ten last season. What's more, the Wildcats lose three-year starter Tavaras Hardy and his 12.3 points per game. Hardy also averaged a team-high 6.4 rebounds a game for a squad that ranked 10th in rebounding margin and last in offensive rebounds. Carmody plans to pick up the pace of the offense, but if Northwestern can't hit the boards, it won't be able to run or snag crucial second-chance points. Also, the Wildcats—which won seven league games for the first time in 18 seasons—no longer will take opponents by surprise.

X FACTORS: The play of 6-11 senior Aaron Jennings and 6-8 sophomore Vedran Vukusic will be important. Carmody hopes Jennings, who started 20 games last season, will blossom this year and give the Wildcats sorely needed inside power. Vukusic is a sharpshooter who battled shoulder problems last season. Carmody is leery of placing too much pressure on Parker, but Parker's play at point guard could make the difference in a postseason bid.

Wildcats Data

Coach: Bill Carmody (27-32, 2 years; 119-57 overall, 6 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Paul Lee (2 years), Mitch Henderson (2), Craig Robinson (2).
2001-2002 record: 16-13. Big Ten: 7-9/7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 125.
Last league title: 1933.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Evanston, Ill.
Website: www.nusports.com
Home court: Welsh-Ryan Arena (8,117).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
3	**F**	**Winston Blake***	**6-5/197**	**Sr.**	**13.6**	**4.2**	**1.9**	**40.4**	**80.0**	**36.9**
30	G	Jason Burke	6-6/207	Sr.	4.2	3.4	1.8	35.1	59.6	27.3
31	F	Davor Duvancic	6-7/210	So.	0.7	0.7	0.1	22.2	50.0	—
	G	Mohamed Hachad	6-4/180	Fr.	Canadian was voted 2002 Mr. Quebec.					
5	G	Michael Jenkins	5-9/165	So.	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	66.7	0.0
55	**C**	**Aaron Jennings***	**6-11/226**	**Sr.**	**5.6**	**3.0**	**1.2**	**38.1**	**80.6**	**32.2**
	F	Jimmy Maley	6-7/180	Fr.	Illinois all-state selection.					
	G	**T.J. Parker**	**6-2/160**	**Fr.**	**Speedy PG had 22 ppg, 3.5 apg as H.S. Sr.**					
	G	Evan Seacat	6-3/187	Fr.	Indiana Player of the Summer in 2001.					
4	F/C	Thomas Soltau	6-10/220	So.	1.1	0.3	0.0	42.9	66.7	20.0
43	F	Patrick Towne	6-6/210	Jr.	0.7	0.1	0.0	66.7	—	50.0
11	**F**	**Vedran Vukusic**	**6-8/220**	**So.**	**5.1**	**1.9**	**1.5**	**51.1**	**54.2**	**46.9**
25	**G**	**Jitim Young***	**6-2/292**	**Jr.**	**12.1**	**3.5**	**1.8**	**43.8**	**53.4**	**35.1**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F/C	Tavaras Hardy*	6-8/225	12.3	6.4	2.4	45.7	49.0	27.7
G	Collier Drayton*	6-2/185	4.0	4.3	3.6	41.9	56.6	18.5

Schedule

N22	Md.-Eastern Shore	D18	Elon	J18	Michigan
N25	New Hampshire	D19	Illinois-Chicago	J25	at Minnesota
N27	IUPUI	D22	Fordham	J29	at Wisconsin
N30	at Kansas State	D30	Buffalo	F1	at Ohio State
D4	at NC State	J4	Long Island	F5	Indiana
D7	TBA	J8	Iowa	F8	Wisconsin
		J11	at Purdue	F12	Purdue
		J15	at Indiana	F15	at Michigan State
		F19	Minnesota		
		F22	Illinois*		
		M1	Penn State		
		M5	Ohio State		
		M8	at Iowa		
		*at United Center, Chicago			

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9. Purdue

National Rank 95

WHAT WE LIKE: Willie Deane, the Boilermakers' scoring machine. Deane, a 6-1 senior guard, led the league in overall scoring (17.3 ppg) last season. He can hit the 3 (38 percent) or drive by defenders and explode to the hoop. Deane's defense was suspect last year, though that did not make him unique on this team. Purdue should get more points from senior swingman Darmetreis Kilgore, a junior college transfer who averaged 9.9 points in his first season in West Lafayette. For the first time in years, the Boilermakers will boast depth and size in the paint with four players who are at least 6-10. The two biggest trees are transplants: Ivan Kartelo and Chris Booker. Kartelo, 6-11, transferred after two seasons at Notre Dame and Booker, 6-10, arrived from Tyler (Texas) Junior College.

WHAT SCARES US: Will Purdue guard anyone? The Boilermakers ranked 10th in the league in points allowed (71.5) and field-goal percentage defense (47 percent) last season. Veteran coach Gene Keady tore out what little hair remains as opponents ripped through and shot over his senior-laden squad. Keady blames himself for the disaster and vows his troops will return to hard-nosed man-to-man defense this year. Also, can this team win away from home? Last season, Purdue was 1-8 on the road (0-8 in the Big Ten) and 1-6 in neutral-site games.

X FACTORS: The biggest question mark looms at point guard, where junior Austin Parkinson and sophomore Brandon McKnight are battling for the starting job. Parkinson is the better ballhandler and passer, McKnight the superior defender and scorer. The play of Kartelo and Booker on the inside is another crucial piece of the Purdue puzzle. If the big men can blend in, Keady's crew might bounce back after its first losing season in 13 years.

Boilermakers Data

Coach: Gene Keady (469-224, 22 years; 507-243 overall, 24; 18-17 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Jay Price (9 years), Cuonzo Martin (2), Todd Foster (3).
2001-2002 record: 13-18. Big Ten: 5-11/T8th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 69.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: West Lafayette, Ind.
Website: www.purduesports.com
Home court: Mackey Arena (14,123)

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
31	**F**	**Chris Booker**	**6-10/240**	**Jr.**	**Can play back-to-basket or facing the net.**					
24	G/F	Melvin Buckley	6-7/190	Fr.	Swingman is tough to defend.					
3	F	Brett Buscher	6-8/239	Jr.	4.2	2.7	0.6	45.0	73.3	0.0
32	F	Matt Carroll	6-8/221	So.	1.5	1.3	0.1	52.9	34.8	100.0
0	**G**	**Willie Deane***	**6-1/196**	**Sr.**	**17.3**	**2.6**	**3.3**	**43.2**	**76.5**	**38.0**
4	G	Kevin Garrity	6-11/253	Jr.	0.6	1.5	0.2	38.5	44.4	—
30	G	Chris Hartley	6-4/180	Fr.	Walk-on will add backcourt depth.					
5	**C**	**Ivan Kartelo**	**6-11/247**	**Jr.**	**Notre Dame transfer; working on grades.**					
42	F	Matt Kiefer	6-10/215	Fr.	Can run the floor and handle the ball.					
33	**G**	**Darmetreis Kilgore**	**6-5/202**	**Sr.**	**9.9**	**2.5**	**0.7**	**38.9**	**77.8**	**37.6**
20	G	Kenneth Lowe	6-3/199	Jr.	Redshirt started 31 games two years ago.					
10	G	Brandon McKnight	6-2/172	So.	1.7	0.8	0.7	66.7	0.0	—
11	**G**	**Austin Parkinson***	**6-0/183**	**Jr.**	**3.1**	**2.3**	**4.8**	**38.2**	**76.9**	**24.2**
2	G	David Teague	6-5/175	Fr.	Indianapolis native can hit the 3 or penetrate.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	John Allison*	6-10/242	9.8	5.7	1.3	60.2	63.0	0.0
G	Maynard Lewis	6-1/187	9.5	2.6	1.0	44.7	72.9	37.7
G	Joe Marshall*	6-2/200	5.9	2.5	1.0	39.0	64.1	30.3
F	Rodney Smith*	6-6/231	9.7	4.7	1.2	41.0	78.4	37.8

Schedule

N22 Miami (Ohio)
N30 Louisville*
D3 at Xavier
D6-7 Boilermaker Inv.
D14 at Indiana*
D18 Belmont
D21 Arizona State**
D28 Valparaiso
D30 Colorado State
J4 Montana
J11 Northwestern
J14 Michigan State
J18 at Penn State
J22 at Illinois
J25 Indiana
J29 Ohio State
F1 at Iowa
F5 Wisconsin
F8 at Minnesota
F12 at Northwestern
F15 Illinois
F19 Michigan
F22 at Ohio State
F26 Penn State
M1 at Michigan State
M8 at Michigan
*at Indianapolis
**at Las Vegas

10. Iowa

National Rank 104

WHAT WE LIKE: The Hawkeyes are strong on the perimeter. Pierre Pierce, Brody Boyd and Chauncey Leslie form the nucleus of a deep backcourt. Pierce struggled at times as a freshman point guard but averaged 7.1 points. He will have to shoulder more of the scoring load this season. Boyd, a 3-point gunner who battled injuries last year, and Leslie are solid. Freshman point guard Jeff Horner—Iowa's high school Mr. Basketball last season—will contend for the starting job. Glen Worley, a 6-7 junior forward, is Iowa's top returning scorer and rebounder. He could be a force if he can manage to stay out of foul trouble.

WHAT SCARES US: There is a lack of experience, inside strength and proven scorers. Luke Recker (17.1 ppg) and Reggie Evans (15.4 ppg) carried the offensive load last year, but they're gone and the roster has only two seniors. Coach Steve Alford wants and needs a more balanced attack. Iowa's power in the post is suspect. Junior centers Jared Reiner and Sean Sonderleiter must offer much more than the combined 5.3 points and 4.6 rebounds they averaged last season. Sonderleiter's playing status was up in the air during the summer because of an offseason marijuana possession charge, but Alford was counting on his availability. In addition, the Hawkeyes lost redshirt freshman center Erek Hansen to academic woes.

X FACTORS: How will a new bunch of Hawkeyes respond to Alford after last season's collapse? After an 11-3 non-league start, Iowa dissolved into the Big Ten's biggest disappointment of '01-02. For the first time, the roster is comprised entirely of Alford's recruits. Will they stumble like their predecessors or turn the program back in the right direction? The season hinges on whether youngsters and former role players can step forward.

Hawkeyes Data

Coach: Steve Alford (56-44, 3 years; 212-121 overall, 11 years; 8-5 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Rich Walker (3 years), Greg Lansing (3), Brian Jones (3).
2001-2002 record: 19-16. Big Ten: 5-11/T8th. Lost to LSU in NIT first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 12.
Last league title: 1979.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Iowa City, Iowa.
Website: www.hawkeyesports.com
Home court: Carver-Hawkeye Arena (15,500).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

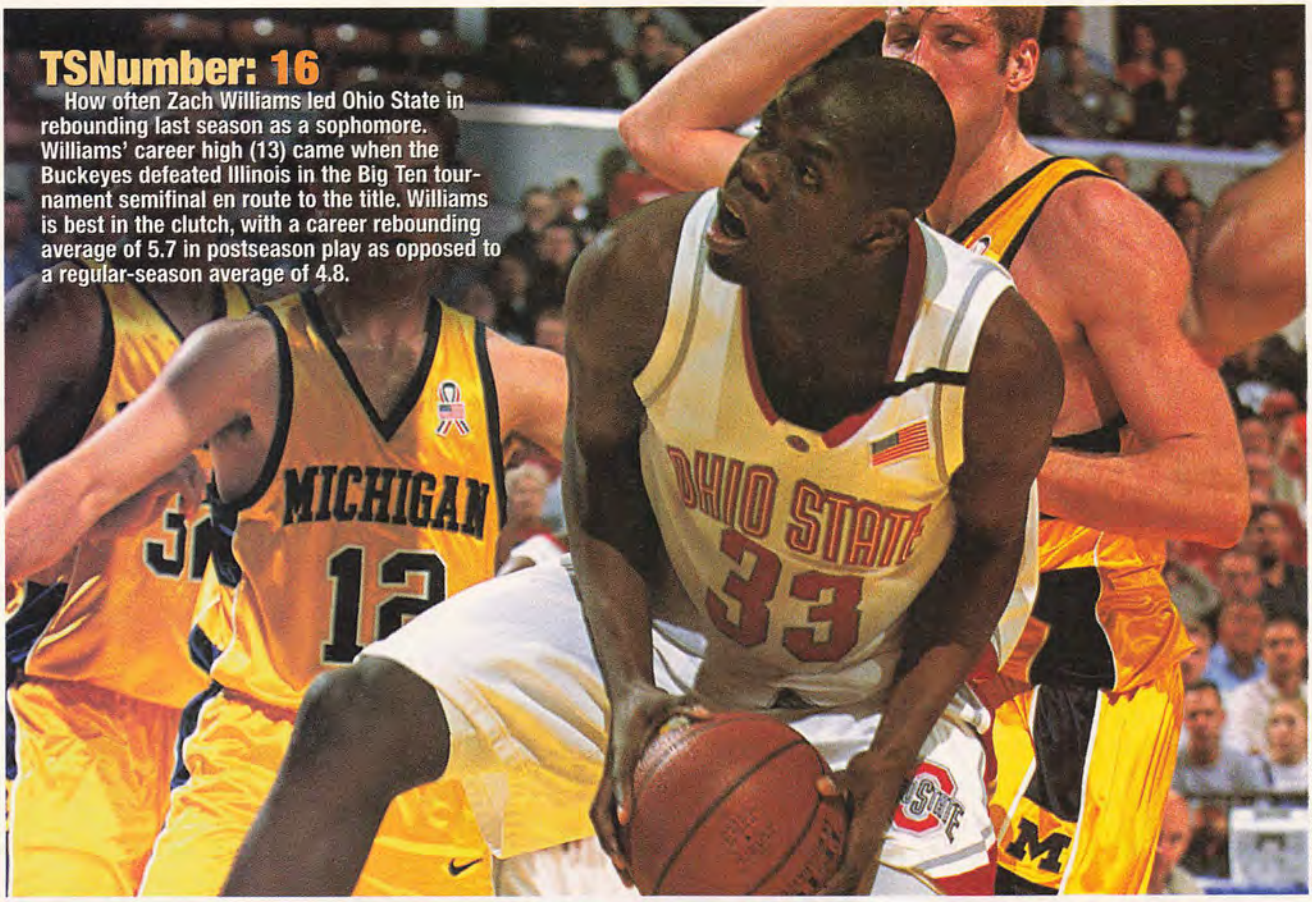
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
11	**G**	**Brody Boyd**	**5-11/165**	**Jr.**	**3.9**	**1.1**	**0.8**	**40.7**	**75.0**	**42.0**
44	F	Greg Brunner	6-7/230	Fr.	Is a hard-working inside player.					
2	G	Jeff Horner	6-3/185	Fr.	Committed to Iowa as a H.S. sophomore.					
00	G	Josh Kimm	6-1/188	Sr.	Transfer from Kansas State.					
1	**G**	**Chauncey Leslie***	**6-0/165**	**Sr.**	**6.1**	**2.2**	**2.1**	**48.8**	**68.3**	**33.3**
3	**G**	**Pierre Pierce***	**6-4/195**	**So.**	**7.1**	**3.3**	**3.3**	**41.9**	**61.3**	**16.7**
5	**C**	**Jared Reiner**	**6-11/255**	**Jr.**	**3.1**	**2.5**	**0.7**	**53.2**	**67.9**	**—**
20	F	Josh Rhodes	6-7/215	Fr.	One of the nation's top 100 H.S. players.					
53	C	Sean Sonderleiter*	6-9/235	Jr.	2.2	2.1	0.5	50.0	37.5	33.3
4	**F**	**Glen Worley**	**6-7/218**	**Jr.**	**7.3**	**4.1**	**1.0**	**45.2**	**72.4**	**31.7**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Reggie Evans*	6-8/245	15.4	11.1	1.3	49.6	61.9	0.0
F	Duez Henderson	6-7/200	4.5	1.9	1.3	42.9	79.6	27.3
G	Ryan Hogan	6-4/185	5.3	1.6	1.0	44.9	81.0	47.1
G	Luke Recker*	6-6/210	17.1	3.4	2.5	44.4	88.5	41.3
F	M. Sommerville	6-6/215	Transferred to SW Illinois CC after redshirting.					
F	Rod Thompson	6-6/230	1.9	1.0	0.2	40.0	75.0	21.1

Schedule

N24 Florida Atlantic
N26 at Drake
N30 Tennessee State
D2 at Florida State
D6-7 Hawkeye Chal.
D10 Northern Iowa
D13 Iowa State
D22 Liberty
D28 at Tulsa
J4 Missouri
J8 at Northwestern
J11 Michigan State
J15 Illinois
J22 at Wisconsin
J25 Ohio State
F1 Purdue
F5 at Penn State
F8 at Michigan
F12 at Minnesota
F15 Penn State
F19 Indiana
F22 Wisconsin
F25 at Ohio State
M1 at Indiana
M5 at Michigan State
M8 Northwestern



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

TSNumber: 16

How often Zach Williams led Ohio State in rebounding last season as a sophomore. Williams' career high (13) came when the Buckeyes defeated Illinois in the Big Ten tournament semifinal en route to the title. Williams is best in the clutch, with a career rebounding average of 5.7 in postseason play as opposed to a regular-season average of 4.8.

11. Penn State

National Rank 130

WHAT WE LIKE: The backcourt, led by senior Brandon Watkins and junior Sharif Chambliss, will anchor a relatively young team. Watkins is a good penetrator who averaged 13.3 points and 4.1 assists from the point last season. Chambliss is a dead-eye gunner who led the league in 3-pointers made (99). He also was the Big Ten's best free-throw shooter. Inside, 6-11 Jan Jagla returns after leading the league's freshmen in rebounds (5.8 rpg) and blocks (31). Coach Jerry Dunn, who led the Nittany Lions to two NCAA berths in his first seven seasons, is tied with Michigan State's Tom Izzo for the conference's second longest tenure.

WHAT SCARES US: Where to begin? Last season, a young Penn State squad ranked at or near the bottom of the Big Ten in almost every statistical category. And that was with forward Tyler Smith, who was lost to graduation. The Nittany Lions couldn't score, couldn't defend and couldn't rebound. The good—or bad—news is that most of the team returns. Another year of experience should help, but how much is anyone's guess. Turnovers are a major concern, especially for Watkins, who had one of the worst assist-to-turnover ratios (1.3-1) among Big Ten point guards. Penn State desperately needs to develop some inside offense to balance its reliance on the 3-point shot. The Lions led the league in 3-pointers made (213) a year ago but shot only 34 percent.

X FACTORS: Can Jagla, who weighs only 215 pounds, show the necessary toughness to bang elbows with the Big Ten's best? He is a finesse player who must develop his back-to-the-basket game. Jagla's fellow sophomores—Daren Tielsch, Kevin Fellows and Jason McDougald—also need to provide quality minutes. Will freshmen DeForrest Riley, an athletic 6-6 swingman, and point guard Brandon Cameron provide a much-needed spark?

Nittany Lion Data

Coach: Jerry Dunn (110-100, 7 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Christian Appleman (6 years), Mike Boyd (6), Pat Brogan (1st).
2001-2002 record: 7-21.
Big Ten: 3-13/11th.

2001-2002 preseason rank: 110.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: State College, Pa.
Website: www.gopsusports.com
Home court: Bryce Jordan Center (15,261).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
2	G	Brandon Cameron	6-0/178	Fr.	Point guard will add to a solid backcourt.					
13	**G**	**Sharif Chambliss***	**6-1/175**	**Jr.**	**14.6**	**2.4**	**1.6**	**39.6**	**89.1**	**42.1**
44	F	Ndu Egekeze	6-6/220	Jr.	2.8	1.9	0.4	48.1	56.3	—
24	C	Kevin Fellows	6-10/235	So.	1.0	1.5	0.4	22.9	36.4	—
22	**F**	**Jan Jagla***	**6-11/215**	**So.**	**7.4**	**5.8**	**1.0**	**40.4**	**64.3**	**24.0**
45	F	Jason McDougald	6-9/205	So.	0.6	1.1	0.0	25.0	25.0	—
33	G/F	DeForrest Riley	6-6/190	Fr.	Good ballhandling skills, 3-pt. shot, grades.					
21	C	Robert Summers	6-11/225	Fr.	Athletic big man gives team some size.					
1	**G/F**	**Jamaal Tate***	**6-5/215**	**Jr.**	**6.5**	**2.4**	**1.7**	**30.1**	**69.4**	**27.8**
41	**F**	**Daren Tielsch**	**6-7/215**	**So.**	**4.0**	**3.4**	**1.1**	**36.4**	**66.7**	**23.1**
34	F	B.J. Vossekuil	6-9/200	Sr.	1.6	1.6	0.4	34.8	83.3	40.0
10	**G**	**Brandon Watkins***	**6-0/165**	**Sr.**	**13.3**	**3.0**	**4.1**	**43.4**	**68.1**	**32.0**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Kevin Fellows	6-10/245	1.0	1.5	0.	22.9	36.4	—
G	Ken Krimmel	6-2/180	1.6	1.0	1.2	38.1	76.9	25.0
F	Tyler Smith*	6-8/230	12.0	5.0	1.4	45.3	77.3	40.4

Schedule

N18-29	Preseason NIT	D20	Bucknell	J25	Illinois	F26	at Purdue
N24	at Pennsylvania	D28	St. Francis (Pa.)	J29	Minnesota	M1	at Northwestern
D1	Yale	J2	Robert Morris	F1	at Wisconsin	M5	Michigan
D3	Clemson*	J4	Buffalo	F5	Iowa	M8	Indiana
D7	Pittsburgh	J8	at Indiana	F12	Ohio State	*Anderson, S.C.	
D11	Temple	J11	at Michigan	F15	at Iowa		
D14	Northeastern	J18	Purdue	F19	Wisconsin		
		J22	at Michigan State	F22	at Minnesota		

Rank 7

By Zack McMillin, Memphis Commercial Appeal

Conference USA

The year before Conference USA began play, in 1994-95, a total of six teams from the Great Midwest and Metro conferences earned NCAA Tournament bids. In C-USA's first season, after the merger of those two leagues, four teams made the NCAAs and went 6-4, with two teams advancing to the Sweet 16. Fast forward to last season, when only three of C-USA's 14 teams made the tournament, with none advancing to the Sweet 16. In 2000-01, only two teams made the tournament at all. In the last five years, C-USA teams have gone a combined 10-16 with but one Sweet 16 appearance.

With all that in mind, the league formed a task force to study all issues pertaining to basketball, with the primary mission to make recommendations for increasing the league's success in the NCAA Tournament.

With some writers referring to the league as Conference ATM, in reference to the enormous salaries being paid to high-profile coaches like Memphis' John Calipari, Louisville's Rick Pitino and Cincinnati's Bob Huggins, C-USA clearly is trying to reinvent its basketball image.

The league certainly needs to do something to regain lost credibility as a powerful basketball conference. Look for Marquette and dynamic junior Dwyane Wade to lead the way, with Louisville and Cincinnati in hot pursuit. And, once again, the National Division very much will be the weaker division.

ASCENDING: Louisville. The Cardinals made a big jump last season by reaching the NCAA bubble. A stellar recruiting class, led by Kentucky transfer Marvin Stone, and a fine returning group, led by All-American candidate Reece Gaines, should put Pitino and the Cards back into the NCAA Tournament.

DESCENDING: Memphis. The Tigers were in everyone's Top 25 a year ago, and some folks were listing them as a Final Four dark horse. While they did win more games than they had in 15 years, the siren call of the NBA robbed them of Dajuan Wagner, Qyntel Woods and Chris Massie (who declared, undeclared and is ineligible). This rebuilding season will require a masterful coaching effort by Calipari for the Tigers to avoid a seventh straight season without an NCAA Tournament appearance.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Steve Logan, Cincinnati. You surely will hear Huggins say it more than once: "It'll take more than one player to replace all that Logan gave this program." Indeed. No player in the country was more valuable to his team than Logan was to Cincinnati the past two seasons. Senior guard Taron Barker will get first shot at replacing the point guard.

2. Dajuan Wagner, Memphis. Everyone knew Wagner was iffy at best for a sophomore season, but the Tigers thought Woods would come in and fill his role as superstar scorer. With both off to the NBA, supporting players like Antonio Burks and Earl Barron must step up and become stars.

3. Jobey Thomas, Charlotte. Thomas set a slew of school and league records with his shooting prowess. The 49ers do not want point guard Demon Brown to shoot as often Thomas did, but he will be the guy most responsible for creating big buckets.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Robert Jackson, Marquette. It's easy to forget just how good Jackson was in his sophomore year at Mississippi State in 1999-

PREDICTIONS

American
1. Marquette*
2. Cincinnati*
3. Louisville*
4. Charlotte
5. Saint Louis
6. East Carolina
7. DePaul

National
1. Memphis
2. TCU
3. South Florida
4. Tulane
5. Houston
6. Southern Miss
7. UAB

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Junior Blount, TCU	6-0	160	Sr.
G	Reece Gaines, Louisville	6-6	195	Sr.
G	Dwyane Wade, Marquette	6-4	210	Jr.
F	Jason Maxiell, Cincinnati	6-7	235	So.
F	Brandon Brown, Tulane	6-8	230	Sr.

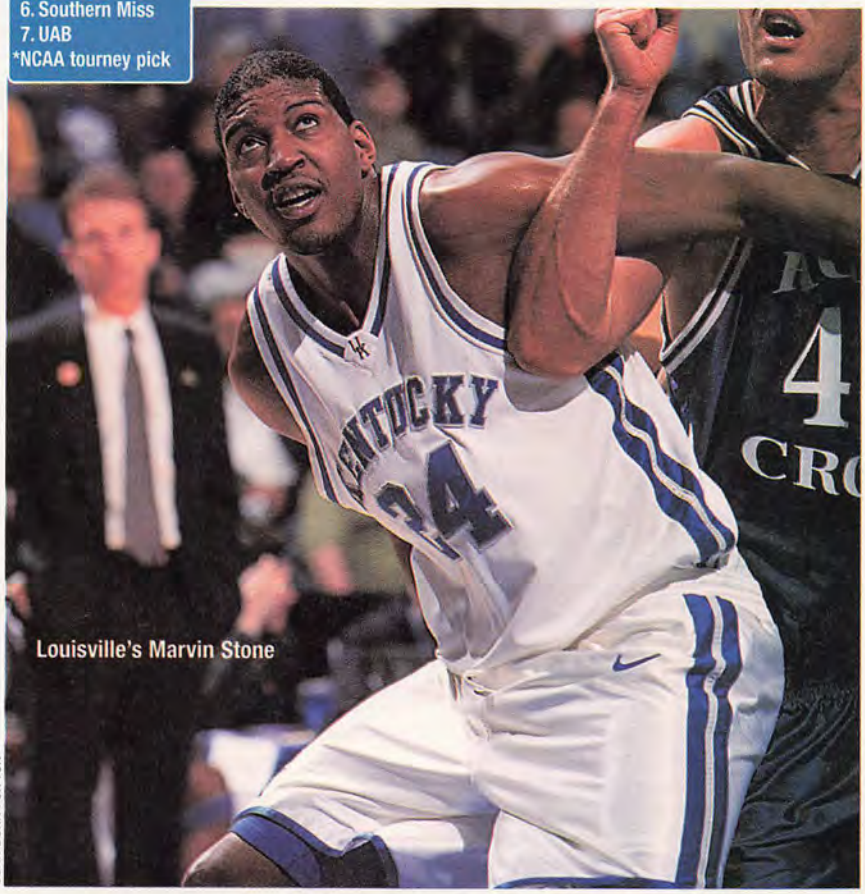
Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Marque Perry, Saint Louis	6-1	175	Sr.
G	Antonio Burks, Memphis	6-0	190	Jr.
G/F	Leonard Stokes, Cincinnati	6-6	195	Sr.
F	Ellis Myles, Louisville	6-8	230	Jr.
F	Robert Jackson, Marquette	6-9	255	Sr.

Player of the Year
Dwyane Wade, Marquette

Newcomer of the Year
Robert Jackson, F, Marquette

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Reece Gaines, Louisville
Best playmaker: Marque Perry, Saint Louis
Best dunker: Jimmy Baxter, South Florida
Best NBA prospect: Dwyane Wade, Marq.
Most likely to blossom: Jason Maxiell, Cinci.
Best rebounder: Louis Truscott, Houston
Best defender: Moussa Badiane, ECU
Best game coach: Bobby Lutz, Charlotte
Most versatile: Luke Whitehead, Louisville
Will take a charge: Earl Barron, Memphis



Louisville's Marvin Stone

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. **Cincinnati:** F Eric Hicks and Gs Chadd Moore and Tony Bobbitt will play right away.
2. **Louisville:** F Francisco Garcia and G Taquan Dean will pack scoring punch.
3. **Marquette:** A class loaded with big men will keep Marquette vying for NCAA tourney bids.
4. **Memphis:** C Almamy Thiero needs to have an early impact. Jeremy Hunt needs to stay healthy.
5. **Charlotte:** Top 100 recruits Vincent Grier and Curtis Withers are likely to contribute.
6. **South Florida:** Seth Greenberg continues to attract solid talent, with F Yusuf Baker the prize.
7. **Southern Miss:** Seven newcomers will add some athleticism to James Green's team.
8. **East Carolina:** Australian junior college G Luke MacKay can fill it up from long range.
9. **Houston:** High-scoring G Cedric Hensley is one of three Texas high school products.
10. **Saint Louis:** Brad Soderberg found Israeli F Izchak Ohanon over the summer.
11. **Tulane:** There's not much room, but two big men signees could help immediately.
12. **DePaul:** New coach Dave Leitao filled a need at point guard and nabbed a local player.
13. **UAB:** New coach Mike Anderson should do better once he settles in.
14. **TCU:** With so many returning and a new coach, there was little time to work prospects.

2000. A year later, he started 24 games for the Bulldogs before he was dismissed from the team. SEC coaches, no doubt, are happy Jackson, who turns 24 in December, is back home in Milwaukee, getting ready for his senior season after sitting out last season.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Seth Greenberg, South Florida. The Bulls got exactly two NIT losses out of the B.B. Waldon/Altron Jackson era, and now that they are gone, the Bulls could finish lower than third in the National Division for the first time since the 1997-98 season.

BEST BETS: The American Division will throttle the National in head-to-head play. Since the two-division alignment began in '97-98, the American has gone 140-61 (.696) in interdivision contests. The last National team to make the NCAA tourney was UAB, in 1999. … Calipari will figure out a way to talk about his old teams at UMass. … At least one transfer from another D-I school will make the all-C-USA team. The league is loaded with them. … South Florida guard/forward Jimmy Baxter will rise up for a massive dunk. The C-USA high-jump champ cleared 7-4½ last spring. … Memphis finally will earn a regular-season win over a team that finishes in the Top 50 of the RPI. In the Calipari era, the Tigers are 0-13 in such games. … East Carolina's hotbox of a homecourt, Williams Arena, will yield an upset win. … Calipari and Huggins will say nice things about one another on the record. But off the record, their competitive dislike of one another will produce some colorful stories. **TSN**

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Reece Gaines	Louisville	21.0
Junior Blount	TCU	19.5
Dwyane Wade	Marquette	17.8
Brandon Brown	Tulane	14.8
Corey Santee	TCU	14.7

Name	School	RPG
Andre Brown	DePaul	9.4
Ellis Myles	Louisville	9.3
Louis Truscott	Houston	9.3
Jamal Brown	TCU	9.0
Erroyl Bing	East Carolina	8.7

Name	School	APG
Reggie Kohn	South Florida	6.9
Corey Santee	TCU	5.8
Eric Bush	UAB	5.4
Antonio Burks	Memphis	5.1
Junior Blount	TCU	4.2

Name	School	FG%
Louis Truscott	Houston	57.4
Will McDonald	South Florida	55.4
Brandon Brown	Tulane	55.3
Jason Maxiell	Cincinnati	55.2
Earl Barron	Memphis	52.0

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
American								
Cincinnati	14	2	31	4	15	0	16	4
Marquette	13	3	26	7	16	0	10	7
Charlotte	11	5	18	12	11	3	7	9
Saint Louis	9	7	15	16	10	6	5	10
Louisville	8	8	19	13	16	3	3	10
East Carolina	5	11	12	18	10	5	2	13
DePaul	2	14	9	19	5	10	4	9
National								
Memphis	12	4	27	9	19	2	8	7
Houston	9	7	18	15	9	4	9	11
South Florida	8	8	19	13	10	5	9	8
UAB	6	10	13	17	11	4	2	13
TCU	6	10	16	15	12	6	4	9
Tulane	5	11	14	15	8	7	6	8
Southern Miss	4	12	10	17	8	5	2	12

Antonio Burks

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Team stats

Total offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
TCU	31	43.1	70.9	34.2	42.6	16.7	8.0	4.6	13.1	85.3
Memphis	36	45.9	66.7	36.1	42.8	15.4	7.4	4.4	14.4	80.0
Cincinnati	35	46.7	70.9	36.2	39.9	13.7	4.8	4.4	11.9	78.2
South Florida	32	45.7	60.8	37.3	39.4	17.3	9.2	4.4	16.6	77.1
Louisville	32	42.2	63.2	33.6	39.2	14.8	7.8	3.9	14.9	76.0
Charlotte	30	44.0	70.8	36.5	37.9	13.9	6.8	2.4	13.6	73.5
Marquette	33	47.3	69.2	37.9	35.5	14.0	8.5	3.4	13.8	73.1
Tulane	29	45.7	67.0	30.2	36.2	15.4	8.2	3.4	16.6	72.2
Houston	33	47.3	68.1	38.3	36.3	13.4	6.1	4.4	15.9	71.8
DePaul	28	41.3	65.6	31.3	40.1	16.5	7.1	2.5	16.9	70.8
UAB	30	41.9	68.7	34.9	37.2	14.4	7.7	2.9	14.9	70.3
East Carolina	30	38.8	69.0	31.0	35.3	11.5	5.9	4.6	14.7	64.4
Saint Louis	31	42.5	67.7	35.7	32.5	12.4	7.0	2.7	15.4	63.1
Southern Miss	27	40.6	66.9	30.6	34.2	11.9	6.9	4.0	15.3	62.1

Total defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Cincinnati	35	37.4	68.3	29.6	34.0	9.7	4.5	2.7	14.7	60.4
Marquette	33	40.2	65.4	32.1	30.9	12.8	6.2	3.1	16.9	60.7
Saint Louis	31	42.2	67.8	33.6	36.0	10.9	7.7	2.8	16.5	62.5
Southern Miss	27	42.9	68.3	37.9	35.5	11.2	7.3	5.0	15.4	65.8
UAB	30	42.0	65.1	32.0	36.5	13.3	7.8	4.0	16.0	67.7
Charlotte	30	41.6	69.1	34.5	34.7	12.9	5.8	2.6	13.4	68.6
Memphis	36	39.5	68.4	29.3	36.2	13.3	6.6	3.9	15.5	68.8
East Carolina	30	44.5	71.4	35.1	35.8	14.1	5.6	2.9	14.1	68.9
Louisville	32	43.0	63.1	33.2	39.8	12.8	6.1	2.8	17.3	71.6
Houston	33	43.1	69.2	34.1	34.2	14.0	7.2	3.9	12.5	72.8
Tulane	29	45.4	67.1	32.9	36.0	15.3	9.1	4.1	16.4	73.4
South Florida	32	44.2	67.3	36.9	36.8	15.1	7.9	3.0	17.8	74.2
DePaul	28	43.9	71.0	30.8	39.3	15.7	8.5	4.1	14.3	76.4
TCU	31	44.2	64.5	34.2	43.9	18.5	7.0	4.6	15.7	82.5

1. Marquette

WHAT WE LIKE: Dwyane Wade will merit serious consideration for C-USA Player of the Year honors. Wade's debut season last year was comparable to Penny Hardaway's at Memphis 11 years earlier, and it's scary to think what he'll look like if he shows even a 10 percent improvement. His ability is such that Marquette could be a Sweet 16 threat even if Wade were surrounded by mid-major talent. As it is, the supporting cast is capable of delivering a C-USA championship to Milwaukee. Sophomore point guard Travis Diener's progress as a freshman suggests he can become an all-league player down the road. Wade will be happy to see big man Robert Jackson protecting him against overzealous defenses while exuding a physical presence few C-USA big men can match. Jackson was dominant in the second half of his sophomore season at Mississippi State before having a lackluster junior year. He also can be first-team all-league if he recaptures his sophomore form. Marquette's recruiting class was heavy on interior players, with Steve Novak and Chris Grimm likely to challenge returning starter Scott Merritt for playing time.

Schedule

N15 Villanova*
N22-23 Blue & Gold Cl.
N26 Eastern Illinois
D2 at Notre Dame
D7 Appalachian State
D14 Wisconsin
D21 Elon
D28 Grambling
J4 at Dayton
J7 at Saint Louis
J11 South Florida
J14 at Tulane
J18 at Charlotte
J25 DePaul
J29 East Carolina
F1 at Cincinnati
F5 Saint Louis
F9 Wake Forest
F12 at DePaul
F15 Louisville
F20 Charlotte
F22 at TCU
F27 at Louisville
M1 UAB
M5 at East Carolina
M8 Cincinnati
*at New York City

WHAT SCARES US: Five of the top eight scorers from last season are gone, and three of them started more than 50 career games. Diener is more than capable of replacing four-year starter Cordell Henry at the point, but don't underestimate the energy and direction Henry provided last season. The loss that stings the most is that of forward Odartey Blankson, who transferred to UNLV because he believed he wasn't being showcased enough in coach Tom Crean's system. If Blankson still were around, the Golden Eagles would be the overwhelming C-USA favorite. One of Crean's early priorities will be finding another outside shooter to go with Diener and Wade and/or finding a point guard who allows Diener to play some at off-guard. Marquette hit 37.9 percent of its 3-pointers last season even without a consistent post threat, but the Golden Eagles need someone to help on the outside. One minor concern: Marquette faded down the stretch in each of Crean's first three seasons, and any coach with his relentless drive runs the risk of wearing down his team. It's something Crean must guard against, especially with a team that is not as deep as other squads carrying the same kinds of ambitions.

X FACTOR: Of all the things Crean has done for this program, perhaps the most important has been instilling a tough, winning mentality. His second season, when Marquette beat Cincinnati twice, provided a mental breakthrough. Last season, when Marquette defeated Cincinnati handily in Milwaukee and then produced a remarkable comeback in Cincinnati before losing at the buzzer, Crean and his players learned they have the stuff of conference champions. Now comes the hard part: Maintaining and climbing to a new level. The NCAA Tournament loss to Tulsa exposed the Golden Eagles as postseason rookies. If they can learn from that lesson and follow Wade's lead, this program should be ready to rise again.

A Conference USA Coach Says...

The biggest hole is point guard. Travis Diener has been a shooter, and now he's going to have to be able to handle other team's pressure and get his team into the offense—and make shots. It's a lot harder than just making shots. They match up with everybody in the country at every other position. Dwyane Wade is a pro on the wing. His athleticism—you have to be there on the sideline to appreciate it. If he's making shots, you're in trouble.

Travis Diener

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Golden Eagles Data

Coach: Tom Crean (56-35, 3 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Dwayne Stephens (3 years), Darrin Horn (3), Jeff Strohm (1st).
2001-2002 record: 26-7; C-USA American: 13-3/2nd. Lost to Tulsa in NCAA East first round.
Last league title: 1994 (Great Midwest).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Milwaukee.
Website: www.gomarquette.com
Home court: Bradley Center (19,150).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
10	G	Karon Bradley	5-11/180	Fr.	Can play either guard position.					
32	G	Joe Chapman	6-4/190	Fr.	Known for his toughness and all-out play.					
34	G	**Travis Diener**	6-0/165	So.	7.9	2.5	2.6	43.0	76.1	44.2
42	F	Andy Freund	6-8/210	Fr.	A walk-on.					
33	F/C	Chris Grimm	6-10/220	Fr.	Not known for his offense but can bang.					
55	F/C	**Robert Jackson**	6-9/255	Sr.	Started 47 games for Mississippi State.					
5	F	**Scott Merritt***	6-10/245	Jr.	5.9	4.4	0.7	45.8	73.0	0.0
20	G	Steve Novak	6-9/200	Fr.	Expected to contribute this year.					
40	G	**Terry Sanders**	6-8/255	Jr.	2.3	1.9	0.4	50.9	75.0	25.0
12	G	Jared Sichting	6-0/165	Fr.	Son of former NBA player Jerry Sichting.					
1	F	Todd Townsend	6-7/215	So.	2.1	0.8	0.3	43.8	60.0	35.7
3	G	**Dwyane Wade***	6-4/210	Jr.	17.8	6.6	3.4	48.7	69.0	34.6

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Odartey Blankson*	6-7/215	8.4	6.2	Transferred to UNLV.			
G	Cordell Henry*	5-10/160	15.2	2.4	3.2	45.7	83.0	37.6
F	Jon Harris	6-7/225	4.5	3.6	0.6	55.9	39.3	0.0
F	Oluoma Nnamaka*	6-7/225	7.8	4.3	1.3	49.2	71.1	31.0

National Rank 25

2. Cincinnati

WHAT WE LIKE: The Bearcats have won or shared all seven Conference USA regular-season titles and have been the No. 1 seed in all seven C-USA Tournaments. The ingredients are here for an eight-peat. The team's only returning starter, Leonard Stokes, is poised to become a first-team all-league player and a favorite for C-USA Player of the Year. He has shown signs already, with 39 points and 10 rebounds in the NCAA Tournament loss to UCLA, 30 points and eight rebounds against Charlotte and 36 points and six rebounds against DePaul. Coach Bob Huggins also expects rugged sophomore Jason Maxiell to challenge for first-team all-league honors after winning the league's Sixth Man of the Year award. Maxiell averaged only 20.9 minutes last season, but his projected 30-minute averages would have been 12 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks. He's capable of those numbers and should get more scoring opportunities with the offense shifting from an emphasis on the backcourt. Few teams have a more exciting newcomer than Eric Hicks, a versatile forward who averaged 30 points and 12 rebounds as a high school senior. Hicks plays with a ferocity rarely seen in such talented players.

Schedule

N23	Tennessee Tech
N26	Florida A&M
N30	at Dayton
D2	Valparaiso
D7	Xavier
D14	La Salle
D17	Oregon*
D22	at Clemson
D28	Miami (Ohio)
D29	Akron**
J2	Chattanooga
J8	DePaul
J11	at TCU
J15	at Saint Louis
J18	Tulane
J22	at East Carolina
J25	Charlotte
J29	at DePaul
F1	Marquette
F5	at Louisville
F9	Oklahoma State
F15	at Charlotte
F18	Saint Louis
F22	Louisville
F26	East Carolina
M1	at Memphis
M5	UAB
M8	at Marquette

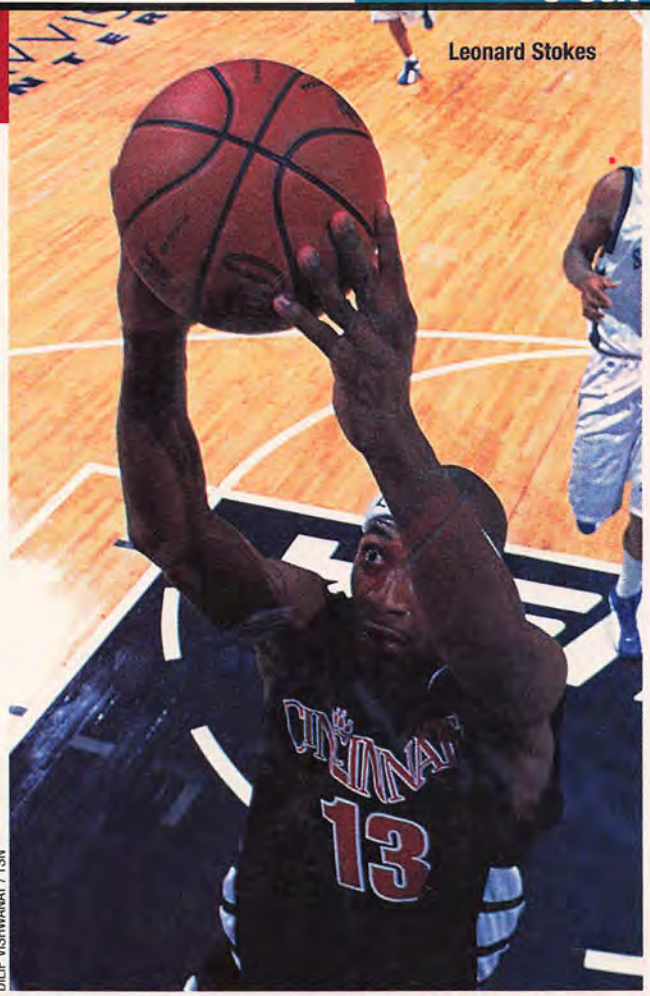
*at East Rutherford, N.J.
**at Cleveland

WHAT SCARES US: The Bearcats are seven-time defending league champs, but no returning players had much to do with that. It is arguable that no team in the nation will miss a player more than Cincinnati will miss Steve Logan, who drove this team the last two years with unrelenting brilliance. Though Hicks figures to be the next great Bearcat, he cannot fully replace Logan. At least not yet. Plus, a gunshot wound to Hicks' lower left leg suffered in the spring could hinder his early progress. Most disconcerting is the lack of a dominant basketball personality among the returning players. Stokes' tendency to disappear and defer is troubling. Maxiell might transform the team's inside-outside balance, but he scored in double figures only 12 times last year. The top outside threat figures to be junior Field Williams, but he had only seven double-figure games last year. The top returning point guard is Taron Barker, a solid player with only adequate skills. He'll be pushed by freshman Chadd Moore. Junior college transfer Tony Bobbitt also could get playing time at the point. It is also worth noting that, as dominant as Cincinnati was for much of last season, it took two perfect plays—a jumper from Donald Little against Marquette and a coast-to-coast basket by Logan against Memphis—for Cincinnati to retain C-USA supremacy. So the Bearcats' aura of invincibility has been nicked.

X FACTOR: Some league coaches secretly hoped Huggins would not leave the league when rumors of his interest in the West Virginia job surfaced last spring. Someone as competitive as Huggins tends to bring out the best—or is it the worst?—in the conference's other intensely competitive coaches such as John Calipari, Tom Crean and Rick Pitino. Now they have another shot at taking Huggins down. This may be the year to do it, but never count out Huggins. His team will play with as much intensity as any in the country, and someone always seems to emerge as a dominating player.

A Conference USA coach says...

They have one non-question—their coach. You know how hard they're going to play. Where do the points come from? Jason Maxiell goes from a guy who didn't start to somebody they're expecting to be a go-to guy. Leonard Stokes will have to deal with the other team's best defender; that's a big difference. I think (Bob) Huggins will use the press. He got into the top 20 and got conservative. The only way he breaks out of that is if he has to.



Leonard Stokes

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Bearcats Data

Coach: Bob Huggins (332-100, 13 years; 500-172 overall, 21 years; 18-12 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Dan Peters (3 years), Andy Kennedy (1), Keith LeGree (2).
2001-2002 record: 31-4. C-USA American: 14-2/1st. Lost to UCLA in NCAA West second round.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Cincinnati.
Website: www.ucbearcats.com
Home court: Shoemaker Center (13,176).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
20	**G**	**Taron Barker**	**6-1/200**	**Sr.**	**2.5**	**1.6**	**1.4**	**35.9**	**59.3**	**32.6**
	G	Tony Bobbitt	6-4/185	Jr.	Made 39 percent of 3s in junior college.					
24	F	Rod Flowers	6-8/235	Jr.	1.4	1.5	0.0	52.2	50.0	0.0
44	**C**	**B.J. Grove**	**6-11/280**	**Sr.**	**1.4**	**1.3**	**0.0**	**33.3**	**77.8**	**—**
	F	Eric Hicks	6-6/225	Fr.	An exciting, athletic player.					
5	F	Derek Hollman	6-10/255	Jr.	Redshirted last year after a shoulder injury.					
43	F	Jimmy Hubbard	6-6/222	Sr.	1.6	0.6	0.2	29.2	83.3	33.3
	C	Kareem Johnson	6-8/250	Jr.	A good rebounder and low-post scorer.					
	G	Armein Kirkland	6-7/190	Fr.	Made 39 percent of 3s in high school.					
14	G	Jamaal Lucas	6-2/180	So.	0.2	0.5	0.5	25.0	50.0	—
54	**F**	**Jason Maxiell**	**6-7/235**	**So.**	**8.1**	**6.8**	**0.1**	**55.2**	**58.5**	**—**
3	F	John Meeker	6-1/155	So.	0.8	0.4	0.1	23.1	75.0	25.0
	G	Chadd Moore	6-2/180	Fr.	Led high school team to a 32-1 record.					
13	**G/F**	**Leonard Stokes***	**6-6/195**	**Sr.**	**12.7**	**4.8**	**1.4**	**46.7**	**73.2**	**29.8**
2	**G**	**Field Williams**	**6-3/185**	**Jr.**	**6.5**	**1.2**	**0.6**	**42.6**	**86.7**	**43.1**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Rodney Crawford	6-5/220	0.8	1.1	0.2	38.9	55.0	0.0
F	Jamaal Davis*	6-9/227	7.4	5.1	1.3	49.5	68.3	50.0
C	Donald Little*	6-1/223	7.1	6.9	Dismissed from the team.			
G	Steve Logan*	6-/196	22.0	3.1	5.3	45.7	87.3	37.4
F	Immanuel McElroy*	6-4/195	9.5	5.2	2.7	46.6	71.3	17.9

3. Louisville

National Rank 34

WHAT WE LIKE: After averaging 21 points in his first season playing for coach Rick Pitino, senior guard Reece Gaines should contend for C-USA Player of the Year honors. Gaines demonstrated an explosive scoring mentality, but he also showed the kind of consistency that suggests he can lead a team to a league title. And he won't have to fly solo. Newcomers Taquan Dean, Prileu Davis and Francisco Garcia should provide immediate relief on the outside, and the interior will be much improved with the addition of Kentucky transfer Marvin Stone and JC transfer Kendall Dartez.

WHAT SCARES US: There was a charmed quality to Louisville's first season with Pitino. Seven of the team's 19 wins were by 5 points or less and three of them required extraordinary finishes. The Cardinals were awful away from Freedom Hall: 3-10, with the losses by an average of 14 points. Carlos Hurt wasn't great, but his departure leaves the Cardinals without a proven point guard to take some of that burden off Gaines. Even with so many key players returning, this remains a team that will rely heavily on many unproven newcomers—and that includes Stone, who underachieved at Kentucky.

X FACTOR: No two players exemplified the Pitino Way more than power forward Ellis Myles and swingman Luke Whitehead. Both have their weaknesses, with Myles' rough post moves and horrendous foul shooting making him an offensive liability and Whitehead's lack of 3-point touch limiting his production from the wing. Newcomers will battle for some of their minutes, but Myles and Whitehead showed a toughness and desire last season that, combined with Gaines' brilliance, allowed the Cardinals to overachieve. That trio once again will provide a foundation of leadership, ensuring that the work ethic the Cardinals embraced last season is adopted by the talented newcomers.

Cardinals Data

Coach: Rick Pitino (19-13, 1 year; 371-137 overall, 15 years; 26-7 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA title with Kentucky in 1996).
Assistant coaches: Mick Cronin (1 year), Vince Taylor (4), Kevin Willard (2).
2001-2002 record: 19-13. C-USA American: 8-8/5th. Lost to Temple in NIT second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 56.
Last league title: 1994 (Metro).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Louisville, Ky.
Website: www.uoflsports.com
Home court: Freedom Hall (18,865).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
33	**G/F**	**Erik Brown***	**6-5/210**	**Sr.**	**8.9**	**3.3**	**1.3**	**37.2**	**76.2**	**33.3**
1	F/C	Kendall Dartez	6-10/220	Jr.	JC transfer improves frontcourt size.					
10	G	Prileu Davis	6-3/175	Jr.	Will compete with Northern for starting PG.					
5	G	Taquan Dean	6-2/175	Fr.	New Jersey all-state as H.S. senior.					
22	**G**	**Reece Gaines***	**6-6/195**	**Sr.**	**21.0**	**3.9**	**3.6**	**45.6**	**80.0**	**37.8**
32	F	Francisco Garcia	6-7/190	Fr.	Hit more than half of his FGs as a senior.					
52	F/C	Otis George	6-8/195	So.	1.3	2.0	0.3	31.7	38.5	0.0
13	G	Alhaji Mohammed	6-2/180	Jr.	3.9	1.6	1.2	39.8	38.5	40.0
2	**F**	**Ellis Myles***	**6-8/230**	**Jr.**	**8.9**	**9.3**	**1.6**	**51.9**	**48.7**	**0.0**
15	F	Simeon Naydenov	6-6/205	Jr.	3.6	1.3	0.2	40.0	75.0	29.0
3	**G**	**Bryant Northern***	**6-0/175**	**Jr.**	**7.1**	**1.9**	**1.9**	**35.8**	**67.7**	**35.1**
34	F	Larry O'Bannon	6-4/195	So.	5.3	1.9	1.5	34.2	77.8	32.1
23	G	Coric Riggs	6-3/185	So.	Ineligible last season.					
21	C	Marvin Stone	6-10/240	Sr.	Kentucky transfer to be eligible in December.					
0	F	Greg Tinch	6-4/215	So.	Will also play WR for football team.					
24	**F**	**Luke Whitehead***	**6-7/215**	**Jr.**	**10.6**	**6.4**	**1.7**	**49.8**	**64.2**	**16.7**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
5	Brandon Bender	6-9/245	3.7	3.9	Transferred to Cincinnati State CC.			
G	Carlos Hurt	6-1/180	8.1	1.9	Transferred to Wabash Valley CC.			
55	Joseph N'Sima	6-8/215	2.5	4.3	0.4	44.9	46.3	0.0

Schedule

N23	Air Force	D28	Kentucky	J25	at Tennessee	F19	Memphis
N30	Purdue*	J4	at Ohio State	J29	at Southern Miss.	F22	at Cincinnati
D7	South Alabama	J8	at Charlotte	F1	Indiana	F27	Marquette
D14	at Seton Hall	J11	Saint Louis	F5	Cincinnati	M1	East Carolina
D17-18	Minardi Classic	J16	at East Carolina	F8	at Houston	M5	at DePaul
D22	Furman	J18	TCU	F12	at Saint Louis	M8	Charlotte
		J22	DePaul	F15	at Marquette		*at Indianapolis

4. Charlotte

National Rank 74

WHAT WE LIKE: Bobby Lutz always seems to fit his coaching style to the strengths of his players, and not the other way around. Though this year's squad includes only two returning starters to go with seven newcomers, it has the potential to put Charlotte back into the NCAA Tournament for the sixth time in seven seasons. Point guard Demon Brown is ready to take his game to a consistent all-league level. Curtis Nash and Eddie Basden give the 49ers a very athletic wing combo, and forward Butter Johnson is poised for a breakthrough season.

WHAT SCARES US: All the newcomers make it difficult to evaluate Charlotte's best-case and worst-case scenarios, and even the veterans invite questions because of their inconsistency. Brown has had some great games, but he has run his team right out of others with ill-advised shots and bad decisions. Nash and Johnson must learn to create their own opportunities after serving as supporting players for Jobey Thomas and Cam Stephens last season. Lutz likes to mix defensive schemes and run a complicated offensive set, and that will not be easy with so many new players.

X FACTOR: On the surface, this appears to be a rebuilding year after the departures of Thomas and Stephens. However, another NCAA Tournament appearance is not out of the question, especially if some of the newcomers can make immediate impacts. Transfers Calvin Clemmons and Chris Sager, as well as Mitchell Baldwin, who was a medical redshirt last year, should offer immediate help, in part because they were able to practice last year and adjust to Lutz's system. All three fill needs (Clemmons as a banger, Sager as a shooter, Baldwin as backcourt relief). Vincent Grier and Curtis Withers are important local recruits who could fill supporting roles very soon.

49ers Data

Coach: Bobby Lutz (80-50, 4 years; 261-141 overall, 13 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Kevin Nickelberry (1 year), Rob Moxley (4), Benny Moss (2).
2001-2002 record: 18-12. C-USA American: 11-5/3rd. Lost to Notre dame in NCAA South first round.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 35.
Last league title: 1997 (White Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Charlotte.
Website: www.charlotte49ers.com
Home court: Dale F. Haltron Arena (9,105).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

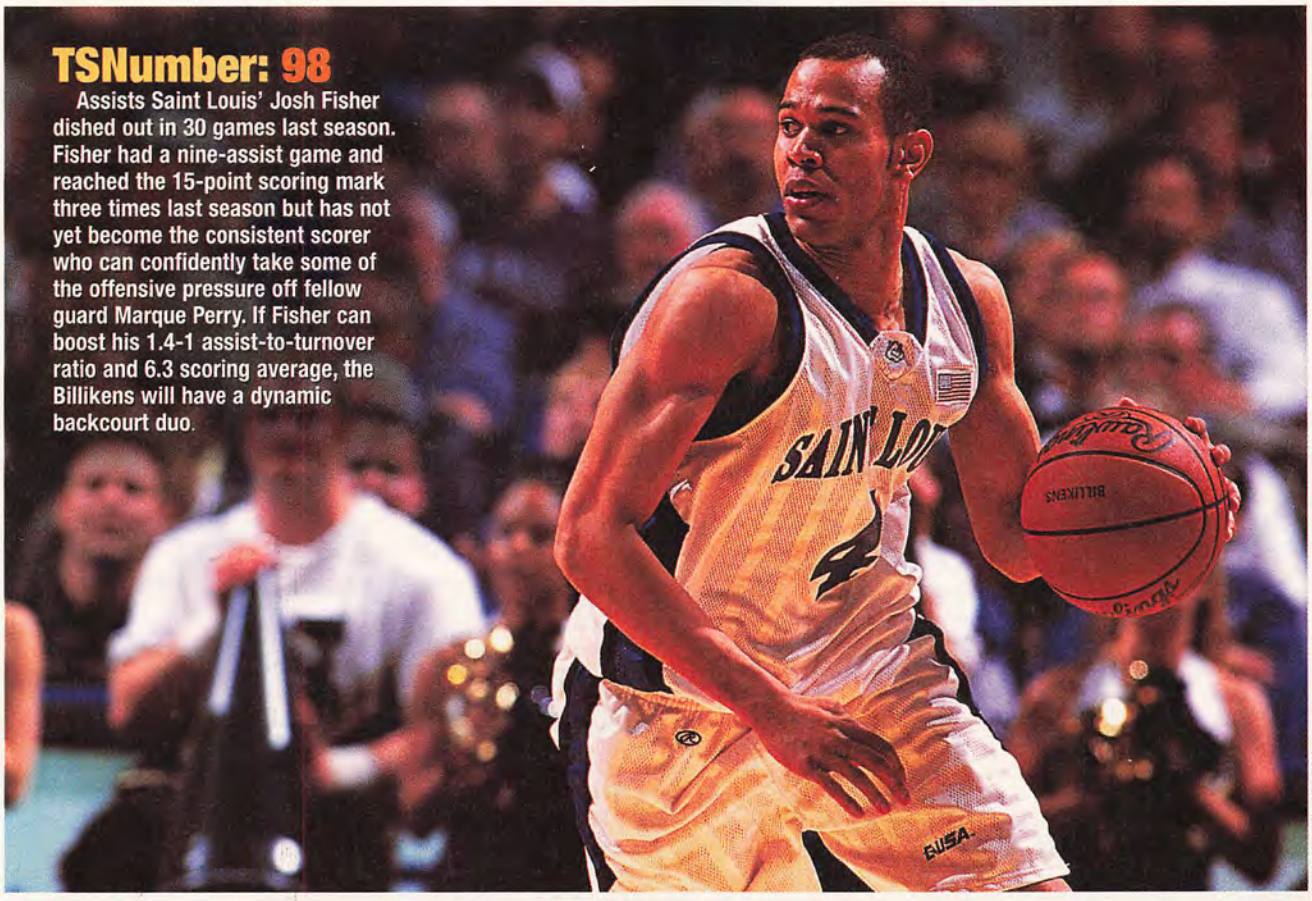
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
20	G	Mitchell Baldwin	6-2/180	Fr.	Redshirted due to tendonitis last season.					
13	**G/F**	**Eddie Basden**	**6-5/205**	**So.**	**4.3**	**4.3**	**1.3**	**46.9**	**63.8**	**12.5**
44	F	Tyler Best	6-8/210	Fr.	An excellent passer for a big player.					
11	**G**	**Demon Brown***	**6-1/195**	**Jr.**	**11.3**	**2.6**	**4.2**	**37.6**	**72.8**	**33.7**
35	**F**	**Calvin Clemmons**	**6-8/250**	**Jr.**	**South Carolina transfer can bench 370 lb.**					
15	G/F	Vincent Grier	6-6/185	Fr.	A strong defender and a top 100 recruit.					
41	G	Chris Howard	6-3/185	Jr.	1.5	0.3	0.2	33.3	50.0	0.0
0	**F**	**Butter Johnson**	**6-8/210**	**Jr.**	**8.2**	**4.6**	**1.1**	**46.9**	**62.3**	**22.5**
22	G	Colon Largent	6-3/185	Sr.	Walk-on transfer from Wofford.					
1	**G/F**	**Curtis Nash***	**6-6/190**	**Sr.**	**10.0**	**3.6**	**3.6**	**40.2**	**71.2**	**36.8**
12	F	Matas Niparavicius	6-9/220	Jr.	2.0	1.9	0.2	32.1	62.5	21.7
2	F	Tory Reed	6-8/240	Jr.	2.3	1.5	0.1	52.2	60.6	—
21	G	Chris Sager	6-4/180	So.	Led Wis.-Green Bay in scoring in '00-01.					
3	F	Curtis Withers	6-8/230	Fr.	A top 100 recruit who can score.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F/C	Cam Stephens*	6-8/240	13.2	9.3	1.3	51.3	67.0	—
C	Jobey Thomas*	6-4/190	18.5	3.2	1.6	43.3	89.9	43.3
C	Jermaine Williams*	6-10/240	4.3	4.4	0.5	49.1	68.8	—

Schedule

N22	Long Beach State	D18	Southern Illinois	J18	Marquette	F15	Cincinnati
N25	at Appalachian St.	D27	Loyola (Ill.)	J25	at Cincinnati	F20	at Marquette
N30	at Richmond	D28	Colorado	J28	Saint Louis	F22	at East Carolina
D4	Temple	D29	Louisiana-Lafayette	F1	at South Florida	F26	Southern Miss.
D7	at Davidson	J4	at Indiana	F4	at Valparaiso	M1	DePaul
D15	Miami	J8	Louisville	F8	at DePaul	M5	at Saint Louis
		J11	East Carolina	F12	Houston	M8	at Louisville
		J14	at UAB				



TSNumber: 98

Assists Saint Louis' Josh Fisher dished out in 30 games last season. Fisher had a nine-assist game and reached the 15-point scoring mark three times last season but has not yet become the consistent scorer who can confidently take some of the offensive pressure off fellow guard Marque Perry. If Fisher can boost his 1.4-1 assist-to-turnover ratio and 6.3 scoring average, the Billikens will have a dynamic backcourt duo.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

5. Saint Louis

National Rank 115

WHAT WE LIKE: Though injuries limited him in each of his first three seasons, Marque Perry is the best returning pure point guard in the conference. When Perry was fully healthy last year, the Billikens were 12-9. In all, Saint Louis returns eight of its top 10 scorers, with veterans Josh Fisher, Drew Diener, Chris Braun and Kenny Brown all putting up similar numbers. Most important for new coach Brad Soderberg—an assistant to Lorenzo Romar last season and a former interim coach at Wisconsin—is the fact that all five are upperclassmen. Soderberg also was able to install his new system and acclimate promising newcomer Izchak Ohanon on the team's August tour of Europe.

WHAT SCARES US: During the Romar era, Saint Louis got by largely by grinding things out and shrinking the game to an average final score of 63-62. Soderberg says he wants to open things up, and while that's a fine idea, it's hard to say if it will lead to more wins. Perry certainly is capable of flourishing in a more uptempo attack, but with the loss of second-leading scorer Jason Edwin, Soderberg will need more athletic guys like redshirt sophomore Floyd McClain to emerge to make it to work.

X FACTOR: With so many seniors, Soderberg will not have the luxury of chalking this season up to installing a new system and setting a foundation and all those other things you often hear first-year coaches say. In fact, having been on the bench last season with Romar, he should know these players very well. The two most intriguing variables are Perry and McClain, because together they can give Saint Louis a backcourt capable of hurting teams on both ends of the floor. Saint Louis felt Braun would contribute more than he did last season. This is his last chance. Fisher has shown versatility, but he needs to become a consistent threat.

Billikens Data

Coach: Brad Soderberg (1st year; 16-10, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Anthony Beane (1st year), Angres Thorpe (1st), Jason Grunkemeyer (1st).
2001-2002 record: 15-16. C-USA American: 9-7/4th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 96.
Last league title: 2000.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: St. Louis.
Website: www.slubilikens.com
Home court: Savvis Center (20,000).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
52	F	Chris Braun	6-10/235	Sr.	7.6	4.3	0.4	43.0	75.8	35.3
41	**F/C**	**Kenny Brown***	**6-9/250**	**Sr.**	**7.0**	**6.2**	**0.4**	**46.8**	**51.3**	**—**
21	**G**	**Drew Diener**	**6-5/200**	**Sr.**	**7.9**	**2.8**	**0.9**	**42.7**	**70.2**	**42.3**
	G	Anthony Drejaj	6-2/190	Fr.	Late qualifier from New Jersey signed in July.					
4	**G**	**Josh Fisher***	**6-2/185**	**Jr.**	**6.3**	**2.2**	**3.3**	**38.4**	**65.0**	**36.6**
22	G	Phillip Hunt	5-11/160	Jr.	1.8	0.1	0.1	60.0	50.0	83.3
	F	Justin Johnson	6-8/205	Fr.	Kansas State released him last spring.					
32	G/F	Floyd McClain	6-4/190	So.	Redshirted last season after knee surgery.					
	F	Izchak Ohanon	6-9/220	So.	Expected to be eligible for league play.					
5	**G**	**Marque Perry***	**6-1/175**	**Sr.**	**14.1**	**2.7**	**3.3**	**43.9**	**75.6**	**25.0**
33	**G/F**	**Chris Sloan***	**6-7/205**	**Jr.**	**3.7**	**3.2**	**1.0**	**42.7**	**60.9**	**12.5**
25	F	Ross Varner	6-7/220	Jr.	3.5	2.6	0.4	40.2	70.6	44.4

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jason Edwin*	6-5/205	9.2	3.3	0.9	42.1	74.5	37.9
F	John Seyfert	6-9/235	0.6	1.3	0.1	40.0	25.0	—

Schedule

N22 Tennessee-Martin
N26 SW Missouri St.
N30 St. Bonaventure*
D3 at Arizona
D7 Texas-Pan American
D14 Dayton
D18 Grambling
D21 at Butler
D28 Southern Illinois
J2 at Kansas State
J4 West Virginia
J7 Marquette
J11 at Louisville
J15 Cincinnati
J18 at Houston
J25 Memphis
J29 at Charlotte
F1 DePaul
F5 at Marquette
F8 at South Florida
F12 Louisville
F15 East Carolina
F18 at Cincinnati
F22 at DePaul
M1 Tulane
M5 Charlotte
M8 at East Carolina
*at Rochester, N.Y.

6. East Carolina

National Rank 185

WHAT WE LIKE: Not many teams in this league have a better front line than ECU, which gets plenty of inside scoring punch from juniors Erroyl Bing and Gabriel Mikulas and has an emerging defensive star in rangy 6-10 sophomore Moussa Badiane. A French national, Badiane led Conference USA and was seventh nationally with 3.7 blocked shots per game last season. Travis Holcomb-Faye, the team's lone senior, gives the Pirates a reliable and effective point guard.

WHAT SCARES US: The Pirates need immediate help on the perimeter. To that end, Bing and Mikulas must be more efficient inside than they were last season, when both shot less than 45 percent from the field. The Pirates' 38.8 percent field-goal shooting led to awful play on the road, where they were 0-12 with losses to Appalachian State and UNC Greensboro and several 20-point-plus wipeouts. The discipline and structure coach Bill Herrion provides helps, but the skill level in the program must improve for ECU to win a few more games.

X FACTOR: It may seem odd, but C-USA's most cosmopolitan team resides in Greenville, N.C. Badiane is from France, Mikulas is from Argentina and incoming guard prospect Luke MacKay is from Australia, meaning the starting lineup could span four continents. Herrion's international strategy has helped ECU become competitive despite the possible disadvantage of being located in Greenville. Mikulas and Badiane have much room to grow. Mikulas' sophomore season was hampered by the NCAA's suspensions of foreign club players. Badiane has enormous potential, and his instincts for the game are impressive. MacKay barely played in junior college last season because of an injury, but ECU believes he could provide a much-needed threat from long range.

Pirates Data

Coach: Bill Herrion (36-50, 3 years; 203-121 overall, 11 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Greg Herenda (2 years), Richard Morgan (4), George Stackhouse (1).
2001-2002 record: 12-18. C-USA American: 5-11/6th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 181.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1983.
Site: Greenville, N.C.
Website: www.ecupirates.com
Home court: Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum (8,000).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
25	**C**	**Moussa Badiane***	**6-10/215**	**So.**	**6.5**	**4.3**	**0.4**	**55.4**	**56.1**	**0.0**
33	**F**	**Erroyl Bing***	**6-6/250**	**Jr.**	**12.6**	**8.7**	**1.6**	**40.6**	**64.6**	**37.4**
24	G	Devin Boddie	6-2/195	So.	2.6	0.9	0.7	34.3	37.5	40.9
21	F	Jason Herring	6-9/215	So.	May miss season after injuring knee in May.					
42	**G**	**T. Holcomb-Faye***	**6-1/215**	**Sr.**	**8.8**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**36.4**	**65.3**	**30.4**
13	G	Luke MacKay	6-5/185	Jr.	Missed most of '01-02 with broken wrist.					
51	**F**	**Gabriel Mikulas***	**6-8/230**	**Jr.**	**11.8**	**6.1**	**2.0**	**44.4**	**81.0**	**—**
32	**F**	**Jonathan Moore**	**6-8/210**	**Jr.**	**5.6**	**3.3**	**0.7**	**28.4**	**75.0**	**22.2**
1	G	Belton Rivers	6-3/185	Fr.	An aggressive player at either guard spot.					
23	F	Corey Rosue	6-8/195	Fr.	One of top H.S. players in North Carolina.					
40	F	Barrett Twitty	6-6/225	Jr.	0.2	0.3	0.1	33.3	0.0	—
31	G	Derrick Wiley	6-4/190	Jr.	Athletic. Thrives in transition game.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Kenyatta Brown*	6-4/185	11.4	3.6	1.0	42.4	76.7	34.3
G	Bryan Foxx	6-1/180	4.0	1.0	0.7	48.1	68.8	43.6
G	Brandon Hawkins	6-2/180	4.2	1.5	1.2	26.8	74.1	24.1
C	Brahin Howard	6-10/215	2.1	2.1	0.0	44.4	81.8	—

Schedule

N22	at Middle Tennessee	D14	Mount Olive	J22	Cincinnati	F22	Charlotte
N24	Mississippi	D19	George Mason	J25	South Florida	F26	at Cincinnati
N30	William & Mary	D21	Campbell*	J29	at Marquette	M1	at Louisville
D3	at Radford	D23	at Coastal Carolina	F1	at Tulane	M5	Marquette
D7	at Old Dominion	J2	UNC Pembroke	F4	at Memphis	M8	St. Louis
D9	Virginia Tech	J11	at Charlotte	F8	Southern Miss.	*at Fayetteville, N.C.	
		J16	Louisville	F15	at Saint Louis		
		J18	at DePaul	F18	DePaul		

7. DePaul

National Rank 188

WHAT WE LIKE: The parting of ways by DePaul and coach Pat Kennedy was a win-win situation. Kennedy clearly needed a change of scenery, and DePaul needed fresh leadership. New coach Dave Leitao brings a stellar resume from Connecticut, where he helped Jim Calhoun build a Big East juggernaut. Leitao inherits a squad that is not without talent. Six players with D-I starting experience return, foremost among them Andre Brown, an interior menace who plays with tenacity. He and widebody Sam Hoskin could form an imposing front line. Wings Quemont Greer and Marlon London are athletic midrange players, and Drake Diener and Joe Tulley are potentially effective outside gunners.

WHAT SCARES US: Leitao brings great credentials from Connecticut, but his record as head coach at Northeastern in the mid-'90s produced mixed results: 18-11 in the first season, 4-24 in the second. The loss of volatile point guard Imari Sawyer is a case of addition by subtraction, but it does leave the team without an experienced point. Marlon Brooks and JC transfer Chris Exilus are the most likely candidates to replace Brooks. This was a rudderless ship the past two years, and it's imperative Leitao find someone capable of running his system.

X FACTOR: London and Hoskin are emblematic of what this program needs—two guys who got a second chance last season (London transferred in from Kansas, Hoskin from Eastern Kentucky) and now will get yet another fresh start with Leitao. If they can raise their games just 20 percent each, it should provide Brown with the support he will need. Brown and Greer have the potential to be the leaders of this team, and Leitao has reason to shoulder them with the responsibility of helping DePaul regain competitive credibility in Conference USA.

Blue Demons Data

Coach: Dave Leitao (first year; 22-35 overall, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Gene Cross (1st year), Tyler Jones (1st), Josh Oppenheimer (1st).
2001-2002 record: 9-19. C-USA American: 2-14/7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 111.
Last league title: 1992 (tie, Great Midwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Chicago.
Website: www.depaulbluedemons.com
Home court: Allstate Arena (17,500).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
2	G	Marlon Brooks	6-1/170	Sr.	5.7	2.1	1.7	42.7	63.8	27.9
4	**F/C**	**Andre Brown***	**6-9/230**	**Jr.**	**14.5**	**9.4**	**1.0**	**50.3**	**55.8**	**0.0**
	F	Marlon Brumfield	6-8/220	Fr.	Will provide athleticism and depth.					
33	G	**Drake Diener***	6-5/180	So.	5.0	2.2	1.1	33.8	84.2	27.6
13	**G**	**Chris Exilus**	**6-2/180**	**Jr.**	**Will battle Brooks for the starting PG job.**					
42	G	Sean Farrell	6-4/190	So.	1.3	0.0	0.0	25.0	50.0	25.0
45	G/F	Quemont Greer*	6-7/220	So.	6.9	3.1	1.2	37.8	63.6	31.0
	F	**Delonte Holland**	**6-7/210**	**Jr.**	**Should score points immediately.**					
21	**F/C**	**Sam Hoskin**	**6-9/260**	**Sr.**	**10.2**	**5.9**	**0.7**	**42.9**	**76.2**	**39.1**
23	G	Marlon London	6-5/200	Sr.	4.0	1.7	1.3	37.0	61.5	11.1
10	G	Randy Ramsey	6-1/175	Jr.	A professional fisherman in the summer.					
3	G	Levar Seals	6-4/180	So.	2.9	1.4	0.6	29.9	37.5	31.8
12	G	Joe Tulley	6-2/180	Sr.	5.9	2.0	1.3	30.7	75.7	32.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Rashon Burno*	5-7/175	4.2	2.3	4.6	31.4	73.8	32.3
F	Jon Oden	6-/215	2.1	2.1	0.1	63.6	16.7	0.0
G	Imari Sawyer	6-2/170	8.9	3.0	5.4	42.4	61.0	41.2
F/C	Lance Williams*	6-9/250	11.2	7.4	0.7	48.3	69.3	0.0

Schedule

N23	at Northern Illinois	D21	at St. Joseph's	J22	at Louisville	F18	at East Carolina
N30	Central Michigan	D28	Seton Hall	J25	at Marquette	F22	Saint Louis
D7	Fairfield	D31	Western Carolina	J29	Cincinnati	F26	at UAB
D10	Ohio	J8	at Cincinnati	F1	at Saint Louis	M1	at Charlotte
D14	at Notre Dame	J11	UNLV	F8	Charlotte	M5	Louisville
D18	Florida International	J14	TCU	F12	Marquette	M8	Houston
		J19	East Carolina	F15	at Southern Miss.		

1. Memphis

National Rank 55

WHAT WE LIKE: Senior center Earl Barron is versatile and has very good athleticism, terrific range and the ability to explode, as he did in a 25-point performance in last year's NIT championship win over South Carolina. Barron is all-league caliber when he plays with tenacity and toughness. Junior point guard Antonio Burks is one of the fastest players in the country with the ball, and he should raise his scoring average substantially with Dajuan Wagner off to the NBA. The presence of Vanderbilt transfer Billy Richmond, who becomes eligible in December, and sophomore Anthony Rice makes the perimeter the strength of this team.

WHAT SCARES US: Other than Barron, there are no proven performers on the interior, and even Barron has been anything but consistent. His most likely partners down low include freshmen Almamy Thiero and Rodney Carney, sophomores Duane Erwin and Arthur Barclay and junior Modibo Diarra. The latter three averaged a combined seven minutes last season. There is an outside chance powerful forward Chris Massie could join the team in December, but the coaches aren't counting on it. Scooter McFadgon's decision to transfer to Tennessee leaves the Tigers without a fan favorite and proven wing starter.

X FACTOR: For all of Memphis' talent last season, the Tigers did not make the NCAA Tournament, in part because of Kelly Wise's knee injury but more because of shaky chemistry. There never was that collective sense of purpose or motivation that was the hallmark of the UMass teams coach John Calipari references so often. Calipari says he is excited about coaching this team, in part because it reminds him of those UMass teams. But the Tigers' heart and finishing kick are suspect. Memphis finished each of the last two regular seasons by going 2-4 and will need to do better.

Tigers Data

Coach: John Calipari (48-24, 2 years; 241-95 overall, 10 years; 11-5 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Tony Barbee (2 years), Steve Roccaforte (2), Derek Kellogg (2).
2001-2002 record: 27-9. C-USA National: 12-4/1st. Beat South Carolina in NIT finals.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 10.
Last league title: 2002.
Last NCAA appearnace: 1996.
Site: Memphis.
Website: www.gotigersgo.com
Home court: The Pyramid (20,142).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
55	**F**	**Arthur Barclay**	**6-8/230**	**So.**	**2.6**	**2.1**	**0.1**	**37.8**	**55.9**	**—**
30	**C**	**Earl Barron***	**7-0/248**	**Sr.**	**9.2**	**5.4**	**0.9**	**52.0**	**78.3**	**33.3**
1	**G**	**Antonio Burks***	**6-0/190**	**Jr.**	**8.4**	**2.4**	**5.1**	**45.3**	**69.5**	**33.3**
	F	Rodney Carney	6-7/195	Fr.	*Indianapolis Star*'s player of the year.					
43	C	Modibo Diarra	6-10/240	Jr.	1.4	1.3	0.1	42.4	50.0	—
11	F	Duane Erwin	6-9/230	So.	1.1	2.5	0.1	45.8	35.3	0.0
	G	Jeremy Hunt	6-3/175	Fr.	Tennessee second-team all-state.					
23	**G**	**Anthony Rice**	**6-4/195**	**So.**	**7.4**	**2.9**	**1.8**	**44.0**	**73.7**	**42.5**
32	G	Nathan Root	5-11/175	Sr.	1.9	0.2	0.5	45.0	66.7	45.0
	G	**Billy Richmond**	**6-5/190**	**So.**	**Vanderbilt transfer to be eligible in Dec.**					
	F	Almamy Thiero	6-10/240	Fr.	West Africa native provides needed height.					
	G	Clyde Wade	6-0/180	Fr.	Walk-on will battle for time at PG.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F/C	Chris Massie	6-8/262	9.8	8.8	0.9	56.2	51.9	0.0
G	Scooter McFadgon*	6-5/190	9.9	4.1	Transferred to Tennessee.			
G	Dajuan Wagner*	6-3/197	21.2	2.5	3.6	41.0	72.2	31.7
F	Kelly Wise*	6-10/217	11.2	10.3	1.3	56.8	56.6	—

Schedule

N14 Syracuse*
N22 Austin Peay
TBA Murray State
TBA Illinois
D3 Ark.-Little Rock
D7 Furman
D14 at Missouri
D19 Mississippi
D23 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J2 at Arkansas
J5 Villanova
J7 Tulane
J11 at Southern Miss
J18 South Florida
J22 Houston
J25 at Saint Louis
F1 Southern Miss
F4 East Carolina
F8 at TCU
F13 at Tulane
F15 UAB
F19 at Louisville
F22 at South Florida
F26 TCU
M1 Cincinnati
M6 at Houston
M8 at UAB
*at New York City

2. Texas Christian

National Rank 84

WHAT WE LIKE: New coach Neil Dougherty was instrumental in helping Kansas coach Roy Williams build one of the best teams in Big 12 history last year. The Horned Frogs return their top five scorers, including Junior Blount, who averaged 22.8 points in C-USA games. Blount and Corey Santee form a terrific backcourt duo, and Bingo Merriex, Jamal Brown and Corey Valsin provide Dougherty with a quality trio of experienced frontcourt players. Implementing the Dean Smith UNC system will be much easier with so many capable offensive players available.

WHAT SCARES US: Former coach Billy Tubbs did not exactly emphasize defense. TCU struggled to adapt to C-USA's more rugged style of play—the Frogs were outrebounded by four a game in league play and allowed opponents to outshoot them 45.3 to 41.5 percent. Santee and Valsin are capable of setting a defensive tone on the perimeter, but playing Merriex and Blount together means sacrificing some on defense. Dougherty will likely find himself straddling some of the Billy Ball theories just to utilize the talent on the roster, but he will not find success in C-USA games without instilling a more rigorous approach to defense.

X FACTOR: Tubbs believed in all-offense, all-the-time while Dougherty comes from the UNC school, which relies on much more structure. Players used to taking the first good shot will have to learn the art of running through an offensive set that calls for screens, ball movement and precise spacing. Dougherty and assistant coach Rick Callahan both were assistants for Eddie Fogler at South Carolina, and he was able to modify the system to utilize the talents of dominating guards. C-USA coaches might be wise to study some USC tapes of Melvin Watson, B.J. McKie & Co. to see what might be done with talented guards like Santee and Blount.

Horned Frogs Data

Coach: Neil Dougherty (1st year).
Assistant coaches: Rick Callahan (1st year), Kevin Lewis (1st), Jai Steadman (1st).
2001-2002 record: 16-15. C-USA National: 6-10/T4th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 88.
Last league title: 1998 (WAC)
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Fort Worth, Texas.
Website: www.gofrogs.com
Home court: Daniel Meyer Coliseum (7,200).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
15	G	**Junior Blount***	6-0/160	Sr.	19.5	2.0	4.2	43.2	86.4	34.9
30	F	Jamal Brown	6-7/228	Sr.	10.0	9.0	0.6	43.9	76.5	—
40	F/C	Brian Carter	6-11/225	Fr.	Redshirt.					
22	F	Chudi Chinweze	6-6/210	Fr.	Athleticism, rebounding will help team.					
00	G/F	Ronald Hobbs	6-6/180	Jr.	Transfer from Texas Tech.					
4	G	James Davis	6-5/195	So.	5.6	2.8	1.1	43.7	70.7	33.3
34	F	**Bingo Merriex***	6-9/225	Sr.	12.7	6.8	1.6	45.9	54.5	39.9
44	C	**Rebel Paulk**	6-11/240	Sr.	3.0	2.1	0.3	42.9	63.2	—
3	G	**Corey Santee***	6-2/185	So.	14.7	2.1	5.8	40.0	76.8	30.9
5	F	Marcus Sloan	6-8/204	So.	0.7	1.1	0.1	22.7	60.0	—
1	G	Nucleus Smith	6-2/193	Jr.	5.1	2.1	1.6	40.0	70.9	100.0
33	F	**Corey Valsin***	6-9/225	Sr.	8.9	5.8	1.8	41.5	61.2	26.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Colin Boddicker	6-8/225	1.8	1.6	0.8	36.4	50.0	25.0
C	Marlon Dumont*	6-9/225	8.8	7.0	0.1	49.8	59.3	0.0
G	J.R. Jones	6-3/188	0.3	0.2	0.3	25.0	20.0	0.0

Schedule

N22 Sam Houston St.
N24 at SMU
N30 Washington State
D3 Texas Tech
D7 at Baylor
D10 at North Texas
D14 Louisiana-Lafayette
D21 at Va. Commonwealth
D23 at Tulsa
D30 Grambling
J4 Centenary
J8 at Southern Miss.
J11 Cincinnati
J14 at DePaul
J18 at Louisville
J22 Tulane
J26 at Creighton
J29 at UAB
F1 Houston
F4 at South Florida
F8 Memphis
F12 Southern Miss.
F15 at Tulane
F18 UAB
F22 Marquette
F26 at Memphis
M1 at Houston
M8 South Florida

3. South Florida

National Rank 98

WHAT WE LIKE: The talent level and recruiting has been upgraded to the point where the loss of two of the school's all-time greats, Altron Jackson and B.B. Waldon, won't debilitate the program. Coach Seth Greenberg lured a potential impact freshman, forward Yusuf Baker, to a team that returns eight of its top 11 players. Big man Will McDonald and point guard Reggie Kohn both made great strides last season. Greenberg needs players like Gerrick Morris, Greg Brittian and Jimmy Baxter to show similar progress this year.

WHAT SCARES US: Kohn and McDonald definitely benefited from the presence of Jackson and Waldon, and this season they must show they can prosper when defenses focus on them. The Bulls' biggest liability is defense, which can be hidden some by Greenberg's 1-3-1 scheme. But not even switching and trapping defenses can solve some fundamental problems. In league play, the Bulls allowed 75.8 points per game and 40.5 percent 3-point shooting. Baxter and Morris must become more consistent offensive factors so Greenberg can utilize them more defensively. The team's free-throw shooting also must improve.

X FACTOR: South Florida should be a tougher team this season, if only because Kohn should be available for practice every day after rarely practicing last season because of painful stress fractures. He showed courage playing with the injury and should be the undisputed leader of the team. Greenberg would do well to learn from Kohn's stoic approach, because the coach's emotions and penchant for displacing frustrations onto officials has led to some of USF's more memorable unravelings. With the National Division down this season, the Bulls could surprise some people. But only if there is consistent leadership.

Bulls Data

Coach: Seth Greenberg (93-86, 6 years; 198-156 overall, 12 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: David Zimroth (7 years), Brian Yankelevitz (4).
2001-2002 record: 19-13. C-USA National: 8-8/3rd. Lost to Ball State in NIT opening round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 60.
Last league title: 2000 (tie, National Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Tampa.
Website: www.gousfbulls.com
Home court: Sun Dome (10,411).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
5	G/F	Sam Barber	6-5/192	Fr.	Swingman should be in regular rotation.					
12	F	Yusuf Baker	6-8/214	Fr.	PF a good rebounder, should get minutes.					
22	**G/F**	**Jimmy Baxter**	**6-5/200**	**Jr.**	**4.1**	**1.7**	**1.1**	**33.8**	**66.7**	**29.0**
4	C	Brandon Brigman	6-8/249	So.	1.7	1.7	0.0	46.2	33.3	—
53	**F/G**	**Greg Brittian**	**6-6/210**	**Sr.**	**5.8**	**2.6**	**1.3**	**37.9**	**66.7**	**40.6**
1	G	Marlyn Bryant	6-3/203	So.	2.5	1.2	0.6	38.6	43.5	38.7
2	G	Sheldon Franklin	6-4/204	Fr.	Bronx native gives team backcourt help.					
35	**G**	**Reggie Kohn***	**6-1/163**	**Sr.**	**9.0**	**3.0**	**6.9**	**44.9**	**75.7**	**43.1**
21	F	Terrence Leather	6-9/221	So.	1.8	1.7	0.2	55.3	42.1	16.7
45	**C**	**Will McDonald***	**6-11/249**	**Sr.**	**11.9**	**4.9**	**0.7**	**55.4**	**57.7**	**—**
20	**F**	**Gerrick Morris**	**6-10/208**	**Jr.**	**1.6**	**1.9**	**0.1**	**32.5**	**53.5**	**—**
13	G	Danny Oglesby	6-1/196	Fr.	Among top-scoring preps in Conn. history.					
3	G	Brian Swift	5-10/152	So.	2.8	1.0	1.2	32.9	76.5	35.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Mike Bernard	6-11/280	5.3	2.2	0.3	51.6	60.4	—
F	Kelvin Brown	6-7/220	4.1	2.5	0.4	34.2	67.9	—
F	Altron Jackson*	6-6/180	19.3	6.4	2.6	43.3	70.5	35.6
F	B.B. Walton*	6-8/210	12.9	9.1	2.9	55.2	41.5	35.7

Schedule

N26	Providence	D21	at Michigan State	J25	at East Carolina	F18	at Tulane
D2	Alcorn State	D28-29	USF Shootout	J29	at Houston	F22	Memphis
D5	Nebraska	J3	at Colorado State	F1	Charlotte	M1	at Southern Miss.
D8	at Florida	J8	UAB	F4	TCU	M5	Tulane
D14	at Wright State	J11	at Marquette	F8	Saint Louis	M8	at TCU
D17	Northern Illinois	J18	at Memphis	F12	at UAB		
		J22	Southern Miss	F15	Houston		

4. Tulane

National Rank 142

WHAT WE LIKE: All five starters return from a team that began last season by winning eight of its first nine games, with two of those wins coming against Georgia Tech and Vanderbilt. The most important of those returnees is Brandon Brown, a 6-8 power forward. Guards Brandon Spann and Waitari Marsh, who each have two seasons of starting experience, combined to average 24.9 points and 6.7 assists last season. Despite lacking a true position, Nick Sinville proved to be an effective player until being hampered by nagging injuries late in the season. Junior Wayne Tinsley is an ever-improving wing who has started 58 of 59 games in his career.

WHAT SCARES US: Tulane lost 10 of its final 13 games, including seven by 8 or more points, which brings one to wonder if having five returning starters really is a good thing. The most troubling statistic is turnovers—the Green Wave had 34 more giveaways than assists. Three-point shooting also is a concern, especially given that Shawn Finney wants this to be a pressing and run-and-gun program. Spann and Marsh need to be more efficient, and one of the centers—George Brown, Ivan Pjevcevic or Quincy Davis—must provide something close to an inside presence.

X FACTOR: Tulane is at its best when it can force the tempo: the Green Wave was 12-4 last season when it scored 70 or more points, 2-11 when it did not. As Finney heads into his third season, he has plenty of weapons to create a high-scoring, uptempo squad. But it starts on defense, where Tulane must do a better job of ratcheting up the fullcourt pressure to create the turnovers that lead to easy baskets. With so many veterans and so little success the last two seasons, Tulane should play with abandon. There is nothing to lose.

Green Wave Data

Coach: Shawn Finney (23-36, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Wade O'Connor (2 years), Jeff Reynolds (2), Steve Shell (2).
2001-2002 record: 14-15. C-USA National: 5-11/5th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 126.
Last league title: 2000 (tie, National Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: New Orleans.
Website: www.tulanegreenwave.com
Home court: Fogelman Arena (3,600).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
30	G	Ben Benfield	6-4/175	So.	2.2	0.9	0.6	38.3	70.0	36.7
54	C	George Brown	6-10/235	Jr.	1.7	0.9	0.1	45.2	63.6	—
5	**F**	**Brandon Brown***	**6-8/230**	**Sr.**	**14.8**	**7.4**	**1.5**	**55.3**	**62.6**	**27.3**
	F/C	Quincy Davis	6-9/215	Fr.	Was Alabama first-team All-State.					
4	G/F	Karl Hollingsworth	6-5/220	So.	2.0	1.5	0.3	38.8	57.9	8.3
11	G	Marus Kinzer	5-11/170	So.	2.9	1.1	1.5	38.1	63.6	28.1
3	**G**	**Waitari Marsh***	**6-3/195**	**Sr.**	**11.5**	**3.8**	**3.6**	**43.7**	**75.5**	**27.1**
23	G	Byron Parker	6-2/185	Sr.	1.5	0.5	0.4	34.4	61.5	50.0
44	C	Ivan Pjevcevic	6-10/220	Jr.	2.1	1.2	0.5	50.0	60.0	41.2
10	G	Brian Raimondi	6-1/165	So.	1.0	0.5	0.0	100.0	—	—
21	G	Marc Siegel	6-0/175	Jr.	0.0	0.8	0.5	—	—	—
15	**F**	**Nick Sinville***	**6-6/230**	**Sr.**	**9.5**	**5.5**	**0.9**	**50.5**	**59.5**	**100.0**
2	**G**	**Brandon Spann***	**6-1/185**	**Sr.**	**13.4**	**3.0**	**3.1**	**42.9**	**86.1**	**32.4**
	F	Vytautas Tatarunas	6-7/242	Fr.	Lithuanian is a versatile player.					
45	**G/F**	**Wayne Tinsley***	**6-5/218**	**Jr.**	**6.1**	**3.5**	**2.7**	**43.2**	**49.1**	**25.0**

Key Loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Linton Johnson	6-8/205	9.0	6.5	1.1	43.0	76.0	28.6

Schedule

N22	at Rice	D20	Savannah State	J18	at Cincinnati	F15	TCU
N25	Loyola (New Orleans)	D23	Jackson State	J22	at TCU	F18	South Florida
N29-D1	U. Hoops Classic	D28	at LSU	J25	UAB	F22	at Southern Miss.
D5	at New Orleans	J2	Georgia Tech	F1	East Carolina	F26	Houston
D7	at Vanderbilt	J4	Morris Brown	F4	at Houston	M1	at Saint Louis
D10	Kentucky	J7	at Memphis	F8	at UAB	M5	at South Florida
		J14	Marquette	F13	Memphis	M8	Southern Miss.

TSNumber: 25

The career-high scoring total Earl Barron set at the perfect time: the 2002 NIT Championship game. Barron, who led Memphis past South Carolina for the title, averaged 9.2 points a game last season. Now the Tigers, who lost their top four scorers, are counting on the center to pick up right where he left off—in high double figures.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

5. Houston

National Rank 158

WHAT WE LIKE: Since Ray McCallum arrived in 2000, the Houston program has regained its competitive pride and basketball reputation. The Cougars' 18 victories last year were their most since 1992-93. McCallum also showed he can win despite a short bench. He welcomes back jumping-jack forward Louis Truscott, one of the league's best interior players last season, and will utilize Indiana transfer Andre Owens in the backcourt. Owens likely would have teamed with Marcus Oliver in the backcourt, but Oliver's status is uncertain after suffering a torn ACL during the summer. The Cougars need Oliver to make it back and recapture his form of late last season, when he averaged 15 points in the final five games.

WHAT SCARES US: The roster is very thin. Only four players return who logged significant minutes last season, and none of the newcomers is the equal of lost starters Dominic Smith and Patrick Okafor. Cedric Hensley, a 6-4 guard who once scored 101 points in a high school game, is an intriguing prospect, as is shot-blocking 7-footer Anwar Ferguson. But they don't project as high-level players in Conference USA. With the talent level down, the challenge for McCallum is to prevent the team from sliding too far from last season's breakthrough NIT bid.

X FACTOR: Can the Cougars find a way to succeed with Truscott and Owens as the two lead dogs and everyone else as supporting players? That's the likely strategy. Freshmen such as Hensley and Dwight Jones will get more chances to showcase their talent because of the overall inexperience and poor depth. But the keys are Truscott and Owens, and each will play more than 30 minutes per game. For Houston to have any chance at a winning record, those two must perform at an all-league level.

Cougars Data

Coach: Ray McCallum (27-35, 2 years; 153-111 overall, 8 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: John Fitzpatrick (2 years), Brian Hecker (2), Melvin Haralson (1st).
2001-2002 record: 18-15. C-USA
National: 9-7/2nd. Lost to Vanderbilt in NIT opening round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 202.
Last league title: 1992 (Tie, Southwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Houston.
Website: www.uhcougars.com
Home court: Hofheinz Pavilion (8,749).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Cedric Fears	6-8/220	Fr.	An aggressive shot blocker.					
	C	**Anwar Ferguson**	**7-0/200**	**Jr.**	**A JC transfer who can intimidate inside.**					
	F	**Cedric Hensley**	**6-4/195**	**Fr.**	**Listed among nation's top 100 recruits.**					
	G	Dwight Jones	6-2/180	Fr.	Son of 10-year NBA center Dwight Sr.					
23	G	Julius Keys	6-2/190	Sr.	0.9	0.6	0.3	37.5	—	33.3
51	F	Moshood Martins	6-10/230	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
5	F	Jeremee McGuire	6-10/215	Sr.	5.1	3.1	0.5	50.8	53.8	30.0
3	G	Marcus Oliver*	6-3/200	Sr.	6.6	2.0	1.4	41.4	73.8	31.6
20	**G**	**Andre Owens**	**6-4/200**	**So.**	**Indiana transfer expected to run the point.**					
24	**G**	**Bryan Shelton**	**6-4/175**	**So.**	**3.2**	**0.9**	**0.5**	**47.4**	**50.0**	**46.7**
11	G	Jarrett Sidney	6-1/177	Jr.	1.0	0.7	0.3	20.0	—	40.0
15	**F**	**Louis Truscott***	**6-6/215**	**Sr.**	**13.4**	**9.3**	**0.7**	**57.4**	**63.8**	**33.3**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Kevin Gaines	6-4/185	10.0	3.5	5.5	37.6	70.0	35.4
C	Patrick Okafor*	6-8/235	12.8	6.3	1.3	51.7	67.6	100.0
G	Dominic Smith*	5-10/175	15.1	2.8	3.1	45.7	79.9	42.6
F	George Williams*	6-8/215	10.2	7.3	2.3	46.1	61.4	33.3

Schedule

N23	Praire View	D21	San Diego State	J22	at Memphis	F15	at South Florida
N27	at Rice	D23	at Washington	J25	at Southern Miss.	F18	Southern Miss.
N30	Baylor	D28	Louisiana-Lafayette	J29	South Florida	F22	at UAB
D4	UTEP	J1	at Texas Tech	F1	at TCU	F26	at Tulane
D7	Texas-Arlington	J4	at LSU	F4	Tulane	M1	TCU
D12	at SW Texas State	J11	UAB	F8	Louisville	M6	Memphis
		J18	Saint Louis	F12	at Charlotte	M8	at DePaul

6. Southern Miss

National Rank 164

WHAT WE LIKE: Closing last season with three wins in the final four games helped salvage some dignity, and the optimism for a turnaround begins with three returning starters. Junior guard Clement Carter is the best of them, and his numbers are likely to increase with the loss of Elvin Mims. Point guard Dante Stiggers and center Ben Lambert both got valuable experience last season, and redshirt freshman Jasper Johnson, who missed last year with a shoulder injury, is expected to make a big impact. Coach James Green likes the way other newcomers such as Charles Gaines and Geoffrey Brown will fit into his defensive-oriented system.

WHAT SCARES US: Southern Miss struggled last season with Mims, an all-league forward who earned an invitation to the NBA's predraft camp. With nobody of that caliber replacing him, it's hard to envision how this team will improve without him. This was such a bad offensive outfit last season that Cincinnati's Steve Logan singlehandedly outscored the Eagles, getting 41 points in an 89-37 annihilation. In league games, Southern Miss shot below 40 percent from the field, below 30 percent from 3-point range and was outrebounded by three boards per game. You always can count on Southern Miss to play tough defense, but some of the seven new Eagles must provide an offensive spark.

X FACTOR: Johnson, who earned Mississippi all-state honors in 1999, 2000 and 2001, is one of the best freshmen recruits Green has had. Like Johnson, Gaines sat out last season and got a year to acclimate himself to Green's demanding ways. They should enhance the team's physical play and provide some versatility. Southern Miss is hoping the NCAA gives Kilavorus Thompson, a starter as a junior, a fifth year of eligibility after a torn ACL prevented him from playing last season.

Golden Eagles Data

Coach: James Green (97-80, 6 years).
Assistant coaches: Kyle Roane (6 years), Luster Goodwin (2), Jeff Norwood (6).
2001-2002 record: 10-17. C-USA National: 4-12/7th.

2001-2002 preseason rank: 133.
Last league title: 2001 (tie, National Div.).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Hattiesburg, Miss.
Website: www.southernmiss.com
Home court: Reed Green Coliseum (8,095).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
33	F	Geoffrey Brown	6-11/230	Jr	JC recruit has good size.					
34	**G**	**Clement Carter***	**6-5/220**	**Jr.**	**10.0**	**5.3**	**1.0**	**45.2**	**72.5**	**30.0**
11	G	Godfrey Drake	6-4/170	So.	Sat out last season.					
40	G	Jason Forte	6-5/205	Fr.	Was Miss. first-team all-state as H.S. Sr.					
41	F	Charles Gaines	6-7/220	Jr.	Transfer from SW Missouri State.					
1	F	David Haywod	6-4/190	So.	2.1	1.3	0.5	29.7	38.9	31.8
32	G/F	Greg Johnson	6-6/200	Jr.	Comes from S. Union Com. College.					
23	**G/F**	**Jasper Johnson**	**6-7/230**	**Fr.**	**Redshirted following shoulder surgery.**					
00	**C**	**Ben Lambert***	**6-9/230**	**Sr.**	**6.4**	**5.1**	**0.5**	**46.7**	**68.2**	**—**
21	**G**	**Mario Myles**	**6-5/210**	**Sr.**	**6.1**	**3.2**	**1.1**	**41.2**	**69.5**	**14.8**
30	G	James Pattman	6-1/185	So.	0.6	0.5	0.2	44.4	33.3	—
15	G	Sam Richardson	6-4/200	Fr.	Four-year all-state honors in Miss.					
4	C	Carey Rigsby	6-9/225	Sr.	1.0	1.3	0.2	33.3	43.5	0.0
5	**G**	**Dante Stiggers***	**6-2-162**	**So.**	**4.1**	**2.7**	**3.3**	**38.8**	**51.6**	**40.0**
25	F	K. Thompson	6-7/220	Sr.	Seeking a fifth year of eligibility.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Bernard Duncan	6-4/190	4.6	1.5	1.2	36.2	72.2	30.8
G/F	Pete Meneses	6-4/205	3.7	1.6	0.4	32.4	25.0	32.4
F	Elvin Mims*	6-5/205	18.9	7.8	1.1	44.7	72.4	33.1
G	Brad Richardson*	6-1/185	8.6	2.3	3.0	36.5	70.8	29.7

Schedule

N22 Alcorn State
N25 Jackson State
N27 Troy State
N30 South Alabama
D6-7 Hawkeye Ch.
D14 Arkansas State
D18 at W. Kentucky
D21 Ark.-Little Rock
D30 at Auburn
J4 Murray State
J8 TCU
J11 Memphis
J18 at UAB
J22 at South Florida
J25 Houston
J29 Louisville
F1 at Memphis
F4 UAB
F8 at East Carolina
F12 at TCU
F15 DePaul
F18 at Houston
F22 Tulane
F26 at Charlotte
M1 South Florida
M8 at Tulane

7. UAB

National Rank 191

WHAT WE LIKE: There always is some intrigue when a team changes coaches. In the case of UAB and new coach Mike Anderson, that is especially true. Anderson, a 17-year assistant under former Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson, finally got a head coaching job—and back in his hometown, to boot. It will take a few years to see if his forte at Arkansas, recruiting, transfers to UAB, which struggles a little more each year to land the best players in talent-rich Alabama. This team's strength is in the backcourt, as guards Morris Finley, Eric Bush and Jeffrey Collins all are very capable and experienced. If Sidney Ball and Tony Johnson can avoid the injury bug, UAB will have two solid swing players.

WHAT SCARES US: The only returning interior player with experience is senior Cedric Davis, a strong power forward who averaged only 1.9 points and 3.5 rebounds as a junior college transfer last season. There are only four true post players on the roster, and one of them, Lee Cobb, appeared in only six games last season. JC transfer Gabe Kennedy, who averaged 15.8 points and 12 rebounds last season, needs to help out immediately. In all, UAB returns only 33.1 percent of its scoring and just 35.9 percent of its rebounding. And that is from a not-very-good Blazer team. The newcomers signed in the spring had better be good, or Anderson could be in for a long first season.

X FACTOR: All UAB knew for 24 seasons was basketball played the Bartow way, first under the legendary Gene Bartow and then, beginning in the mid-'90s, under his son, Murry. Last season marked only the second losing record in UAB history, and it cost Murry his job. Though the younger Bartow had his critics, Anderson still has big shoes to fill. UAB's style and personality will change drastically. Will it be for the better?

Blazers Data

Coach: Mike Anderson (1st year).
Assistant coaches: Chris Giles (1st year), Scott Edgar (1st), Matt Zimmerman (1st).
2001-2002 record: 13-17. C-USA National: 6-10/T4th.

2001-2002 preseason rank: 71
Last league title: 1999 (National Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Birmingham, Ala.
Website: www.uabsports.com
Home court: Bartow Arena (8,500).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
32	G/F	Sidney Ball	6-5/185	Sr.	Missed all of last season with injury.					
33	**G**	**Eric Bush***	**5-10/180**	**Sr.**	**7.3**	**4.2**	**5.4**	**35.2**	**173.3**	**19.2**
	G	Derrick Broom	6-5/190	Fr.	A pure shooter with talent in abundance.					
15	F	Lee Cobb	6-7/215	Jr.	0.5	0.2	—	25.0	—	25.0
4	**G**	**Jeffrey Collins**	**6-4/190**	**So.**	**5.1**	**2.4**	**1.1**	**38.5**	**78.0**	**28.1**
34	**F**	**Cedric Davis**	**6-8/225**	**Sr.**	**1.9**	**3.5**	**0.6**	**39.6**	**64.0**	**—**
	F	DeMario Eddins	6-7/195	Fr.	Averaged 17 ppg, 9 rpg at Winchendon.					
10	**F**	**Morris Finley***	**5-11/165**	**Jr.**	**11.3**	**2.6**	**2.2**	**39.7**	**71.2**	**38.6**
21	G/F	Tony Johnson	6-4/180	Sr.	Backup PG missed last year with injury.					
	G	Richard Jones	6-4/185	Fr.	Two-time Oklahoma all-state selection.					
	F	**Gabe Kennedy**	**6-9/235**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer averaged 15.8 ppg, 12 rpg.**					
42	F	Antonae Roberson	6-5/230	Sr.	6.0	2.2	0.3	52.2	51.4	—
	F	Brandon Tobias	6-7/205	Fr.	Led high school to three state titles.					
3	G	Asa Woods	6-5/185	Jr.	2.8	1.1	1.1	32.1	77.8	37.5

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	P.J. Arnold	6-5/205	11.4	3.9	1.1	36.9	73.2	39.7
F	Eric Batchelor*	6-7/210	8.5	3.0	1.2	36.6	83.1	33.6
F	Will Campbell*	6-8/245	12.7	8.8	1.2	54.4	58.0	0.0
F	Myron Ransom*	6-5/225	8.6	5.1	1.6	45.9	68.0	40.6

Schedule

N22 Birm. Southern
N24 Chattanooga
N27 at UNLV
D1 West Alabama
D4 at Richmond
D17 Nicholls State
D19 Texas A&M-C.C.
D21 Alabama A&M
D27-28 SunClassic
J2 Mississippi State
J8 at South Florida
J11 at Houston
J14 Charlotte
J18 Southern Miss
J25 at Tulane
J29 TCU
F4 at Southern Miss
F8 Tulane
F12 South Florida
F15 at Memphis
F18 at TCU
F22 Houston
F26 DePaul
M1 at Marquette
M5 at Cincinnati
M8 Memphis

Mountain West

After getting three teams—Wyoming, Utah and San Diego State—into the NCAA Tournament a year ago, the Mountain West is hopeful for more multiple bids come March. This is the most talented and competitive the league has been since it began play in 1999. Even Air Force has proved it can play with anyone.

The one team that will struggle to maintain its level of competitiveness will be New Mexico. The Lobos were in the NCAA Tournament four years ago, but it will take a remarkable job by Ritchie McKay to even get back to the NIT. The dysfunctional program in Albuquerque, which has seen players leave, players and coaches squabble and a change on the sidelines, has made New Mexico the Land of Disenchantment.

New Mexico's loss could be Colorado State's gain. The Rams have a veteran team, and when everyone was healthy toward the end of last season, they gave opponents fits. But Wyoming, with much of its nucleus intact and some sharp recruiting, is a solid choice to repeat. UNLV has stability and the best backcourt, while BYU has a great front line and balanced scoring.

ASCENDING: Colorado State. The Rams have experience, a go-to guy in forward Brian Greene, solid recruiting by second-year CSU coach Dale Layer and a desire to turn around last year's 12-18 mark.

DESCENDING: Utah. Losing five guys who didn't contribute a whole lot is one thing. But replacing departed seniors Chris Burgess, Jeff Johnsen, Travis Spivey and Phil Cullen, who together averaged nearly 40 points, is quite another. There also is the loss of assistants Dick Hunsaker (now head coach at Utah Valley State) and Jeff Strohm (assistant at Marquette).

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Randy Holcomb, San Diego State. The Aztecs will miss Holcomb's scoring and leadership. Either junior Aerick Sanders or Arizona transfer Travis Hanour will get Holcomb's minutes and his touches, but can either one duplicate his production?

2. Matt Montague, BYU. The Cougars will miss point guard Montague's steady hand. He averaged 7.2 assists a game last season. Can JC transfer Kevin Woodberry do that?

3. Jevon Banks, UNLV. Though he was a reserve, Banks gave the Rebels an energy boost off the bench and helped win a lot of games in February and March. Guard Ernest Turner didn't play a lot his freshman season because of Banks. But the Rebels hope he was paying attention from the

PREDICTIONS

1. Wyoming*
2. UNLV*
3. Brigham Young
4. Utah
5. San Diego State
6. Colorado State
7. New Mexico
8. Air Force

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ruben Douglas, New Mexico	6-5	200	Sr.
G	Marcus Banks, UNLV	6-1	195	Sr.
G/F	Marcus Bailey, Wyoming	6-5	190	Sr.
F	Britton Johnsen, Utah	6-9	213	Sr.
F	Dalron Johnson, UNLV	6-10	215	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tony Bland, San Diego State	6-5	192	Sr.
G/F	Travis Hansen, Brigham Young	6-6	210	Sr.
F	Brian Greene, Colorado State	6-8	225	Sr.
F	Joel Gerlach, Air Force	6-6	190	Jr.
C	Uche Nsonwu-Amadi, Wyoming	6-10	260	Sr.

Player of the Year

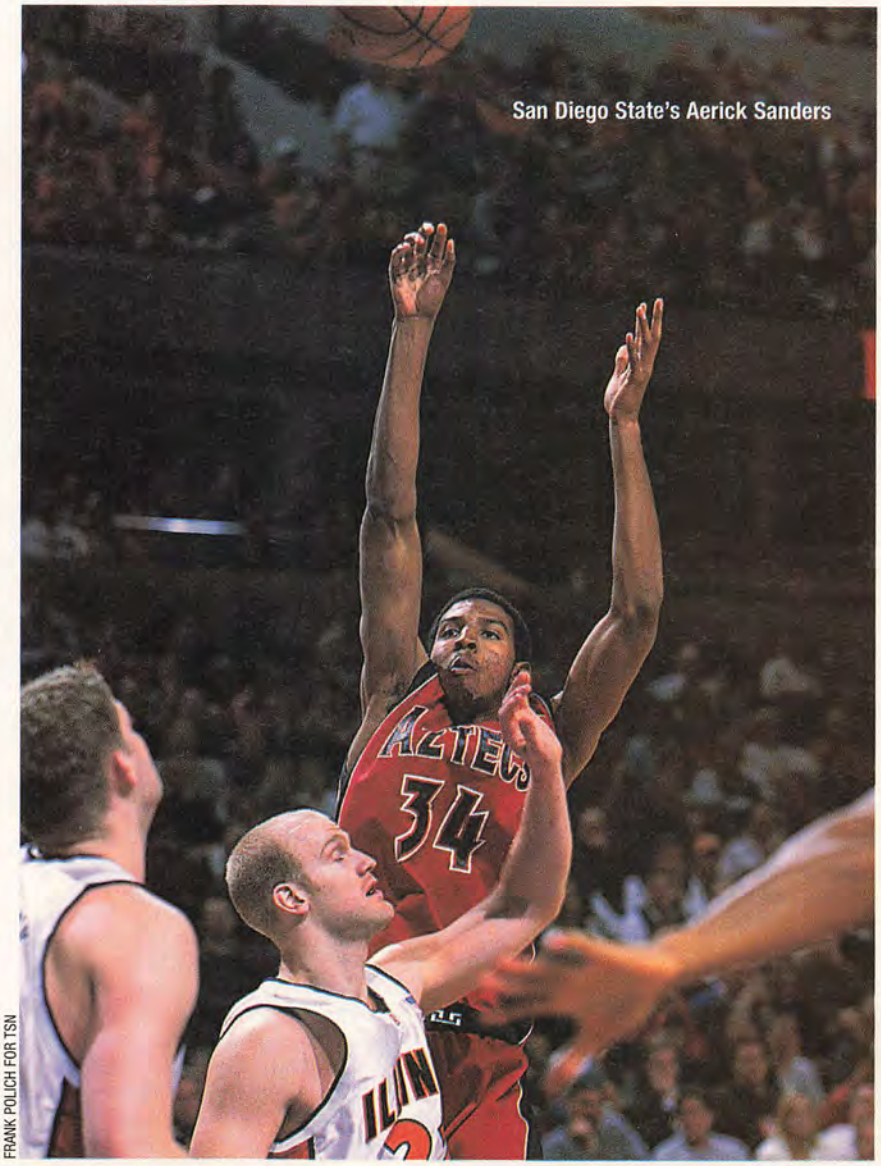
Ruben Douglas, New Mexico

Newcomer of the Year

Demetrius Hunter, G, UNLV

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Nick Jacobson, Utah
Best playmaker: Ruben Douglas, New Mexico
Best dunker: Lamar Bigby, UNLV
Best NBA prospect: Dalron Johnson, UNLV
Most likely to blossom: Mark Bigelow, BYU
Best rebounder: Uche Nsonwu-Amadi, Wyo.
Best defender: Marcus Banks, UNLV
Best game coach: Steve Cleveland, BYU
Most versatile: Marcus Bailey, Wyoming
Will take a charge: Trace Caton, Utah



San Diego State's Aerick Sanders

FRANK POLICH FOR TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. **BYU:** Landed 6-11 Brazilian Rafael Araujo even though Jared Jensen postponed his mission.
2. **San Diego State:** Getting Travis Hanour and Chris Manker means SDSU won't fall too far.
3. **Wyoming:** The latest Nigerian in Laramie, PF Omoniyi Makun, will keep frontcourt solid.
4. **Utah:** With 6-9 Andrew Bogut, a return to power basketball may be in the cards.
5. **UNLV:** The Rebels hope JC C J.K. Edwards pans out better than Jamal Holden last year.
6. **Colorado State:** Gs Shelton Johnson, Darien Chavis and Micheal Morris add quickness.
7. **Air Force:** The Falcons got bigger with 6-11 freshman C Deane Lake.
8. **New Mexico:** Ritchie McKay got a late jump. JC F Shelton Colwell was deemed ineligible.

Utah's Rick Majerus

SCOTT YEATER FOR TSN

bench, because he may get the chance to be that catalyst as a sophomore.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Brian Greene, Colorado State. For some reason, Greene doesn't get his due. He scores, he rebounds, he leads. Maybe it was because his team struggled last year that few noticed his 16.2 scoring and 7.5 rebounding averages. But the other Mountain West coaches know who Greene is and you can bet he's not overlooked in any scouting report.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Ritchie McKay, New Mexico. It may not be fair, given that McKay is in his first year on the job. But Lobos fans are not going to cut a lot of slack for McKay (who coached Colorado State for two seasons before spending the last two at Oregon State), since he wasn't a popular choice to begin with. The honeymoon at The Pit will be a short one.

BEST BETS: Air Force will knock off at least one of the conference's elite teams. The Falcons continue to be a pesky opponent for most of the league, particularly at home. … The media will try to set up Utah coach Rick Majerus to lament about the conference tournament and its location in Las Vegas. But Majerus won't bite. … Colorado State will get more production out of athletic swingman Freddy Robinson. The sophomore should get more minutes after showing flashes of brilliance last year. … Look for UNLV to extend Charlie Spoonhour's contract before the year's out. Spoonhour is in the second year of a three-year deal. … League commissioner Craig Thompson will lobby for multiple bids, claiming the MWC's power rating is justification for the NCAA Tournament committee to take more than one school. … BYU junior Mark Bigelow will have a big year thanks to the time he put in over the summer working on his game. Ditto teammate Travis Hansen. … San Diego State will have the biggest crowd in school history when Arizona comes to Cox Arena in December, and the Aztecs won't need to have a bobblehead promotion to do it. … Wyoming will find its way back to the NCAA Tournament, marking the first back-to-back appearances for the Cowboys in 20 years. … BYU's continued resurgence will be mirrored at the turnstiles. The Marriott Center should be home to most of the Mountain West's biggest crowds this year. **TSN**

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Ruben Douglas	New Mexico	18.1
Dalron Johnson	UNLV	17.4
Brian Greene	Colorado State	16.2
Marcus Banks	UNLV	15.8
Tony Bland	San Diego State	15.7

Name	School	RPG
Uche Nsonwu-Amadi	Wyoming	8.2
Brian Greene	Colorado State	7.5
Dalron Johnson	UNLV	7.0
Britton Johnsen	Utah	6.3
Travis Hansen	BYU	6.2

Name	School	APG
Andy Birley	Colorado State	3.9
Tony Bland	San Diego State	3.4
Jason Straight	Wyoming	3.3
Senque Carey	New Mexico	3.2
Marcus Banks	UNLV	3.0

Name	School	FG%
Uche Nsonwu-Amadi	Wyoming	54.0
Joel Gerlach	Air Force	53.0
Mike Mackell	San Diego State	52.4
Jamaal Williams	New Mexico	51.9
Brian Greene	Colorado State	51.0

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Wyoming	11	3	22	9	13	1	9	8
Utah	10	4	21	9	14	2	7	7
UNLV	9	5	21	11	16	3	5	8
San Diego State	7	7	21	12	12	3	9	9
BYU	7	7	18	12	16	0	2	12
New Mexico	6	8	16	14	14	5	2	9
Colorado State	3	11	12	18	7	7	5	11
Air Force	3	11	9	19	5	6	4	13

Tony Bland

FRANK POLICH FOR TSN

Team stats

Total Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
UNLV	32	46.2	71.4	34.8	33.3	14.8	9.8	3.8	14.3	78.3
Wyoming	31	45.6	69.8	30.0	40.2	13.5	6.8	4.4	14.5	75.0
San Diego State	33	47.6	66.0	35.9	36.9	14.3	6.8	3.7	15.4	74.4
New Mexico	30	45.2	66.6	37.7	36.7	12.8	6.0	4.0	13.0	73.5
BYU	30	47.0	76.0	39.7	33.3	14.0	5.3	3.1	13.7	70.5
Colorado State	30	47.7	67.5	37.6	35.3	15.2	6.2	3.3	17.5	68.8
Utah	30	46.9	67.3	40.5	30.6	14.6	6.0	2.7	13.2	67.3
Air Force	28	46.3	71.2	37.3	21.9	11.7	8.1	1.4	13.9	57.3

Total Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Utah	30	44.5	70.9	32.0	29.8	11.0	5.8	2.1	13.7	61.3
Air Force	28	47.3	71.2	32.7	30.0	9.8	6.2	2.6	14.6	61.5
BYU	30	42.4	70.9	30.6	31.1	12.6	6.4	2.6	12.7	65.0
Colorado State	30	42.9	66.0	37.4	30.8	12.5	8.8	3.0	14.3	68.2
Wyoming	32	40.9	71.1	36.0	32.4	12.9	7.6	3.6	13.5	68.7
San Diego State	33	42.9	67.5	33.2	33.5	13.6	8.0	3.5	15.1	70.9
New Mexico	30	45.5	70.3	36.5	32.2	13.9	6.0	3.4	13.2	71.1
UNLV	32	47.1	68.8	35.9	37.2	13.4	6.1	2.7	17.7	75.5

1. Wyoming

National Rank 30

WHAT WE LIKE: With a veteran team returning, buoyed by the return of point guard Chris McMillian and the added depth he will provide, the Cowboys will be tough to displace at the top of the standings. Versatile senior Marcus Bailey is one of the best players in the league, while senior Uche Nsonwu-Amadi is a legitimate big man who can score, rebound and defend the post. Jason Straight proved he could step in as a freshman and play point guard. Shooting guard Donta Richardson adjusted to Division I from junior college quicker than anticipated. Coach Steve McClain didn't take a year off from recruiting either, luring Nigerian forward Omoniyi Makun from Vincennes JC. A return to the NCAA Tournament is not an unreasonable possibility, given the returning talent and the experience this group has gained.

WHAT SCARES US: While McMillian's return bolsters the backcourt, someone must replace the numbers left in the wake of Josh Davis' departure. Davis didn't have a great senior season but still averaged close to 12 points and eight rebounds and was a good shot blocker. Wyoming also has to fill the void left by a couple of unsung heroes: Paris Corner and Ronell Mingo. Both provided energy and clutch play off the bench. Perhaps returnees Joe Ries and David Rottinghaus can get it done. When you have veterans playing the majority of the minutes, this not as critical. Still, Wyoming needs to get consistent productivity from its bench.

X FACTOR: How will McClain handle playing time for his two point guards? Will Straight remain the starter or does McMillian, who had started throughout his career until foot and ankle injuries sidelined him for all but four games a year ago, get his job back? Chemistry is such a fragile thing and there's nothing worse for a basketball team than an unhappy point guard.

Cowboys Data

Coach: Steve McClain (79-41, 4 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Leroy Washington (2 years), John Adams (4), Joe Dooley (1st).
2001-2002 record: 22-9. Mountain West: 11-3/1st. Lost to Arizona in NCAA West second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 34.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Laramie, Wyo.
Website: www.wyomingathletics.com
Home court: Arena Auditorium (15,028).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
23	G	David Adams	6-2/185	Jr.	Transfer from Washington State.					
44	**G/F**	**Marcus Bailey***	**6-5/190**	**Sr.**	**14.6**	**4.2**	**2.4**	**49.1**	**70.6**	**36.1**
	F	Mory Correa	6-9/215	Jr.	Averaged 15 ppg, 8 rpg at Pratt CC.					
13	C	Alex Dunn	6-10/220	So.	0.8	1.2	0.0	37.5	50.0	—
15	F	Supo Jegede	6-8/205	Fr.	PF played on strong Colorado H.S. team.					
00	**F**	**Omoniyi Makun**	**6-8/215**	**Jr.**	**Nigerian JC transfer is solid defender.**					
10	G	Chris McMillian	5-10/180	Sr.	Three-year starter sidelined by leg injury.					
5	**F/C**	**U. Nsonwu-Amadi***	**6-10/260**	**Sr.**	**10.2**	**8.2**	**0.6**	**54.0**	**66.2**	**0.0**
1	**G**	**Donta Richardson***	**6-2/170**	**Sr.**	**11.9**	**2.9**	**2.7**	**37.4**	**89.0**	**28.0**
25	F	Joe Ries	6-8/225	Jr.	1.8	1.5	0.0	61.8	41.7	66.7
20	G/F	David Rottinghaus	6-5/195	Jr.	1.2	1.2	0.5	30.8	62.5	12.5
3	**G**	**Jason Straight***	**5-11/165**	**So.**	**9.2**	**2.4**	**3.3**	**39.6**	**72.6**	**29.1**
32	C	Ryan Wildenborg	6-11/250	Jr.	Minnesota transfer adds inside depth.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Josh Davis*	6-8/235	11.7	7.9	1.5	53.0	58.3	18.6
F/C	Ronell Mingo	6-9/230	4.2	3.4	0.3	46.8	79.2	—
G	Paris Corner	6-1/193	7.9	2.1	1.2	46.4	82.4	41.6

Schedule

N23	Denver	D19	South Carolina	J18	New Mexico	F15	at New Mexico
N27-30	Gr. Alaska Shoot.	D21	Prairie View A&M	J20	Air Force	F17	at Air Force
D5	at Washington	D28	Detroit	J25	at Colorado State	F22	Colorado State
D9	Boise State	D30	at Indiana State	F1	at UNLV	M1	San Diego State
D12	IUPU-Fort Wayne	J4	Montana State	F3	at San Diego State	M3	UNLV
D14	Wyoming Shootout	J8	Savannah State	F8	BYU	M6	at BYU
		J15	at Kansas	F10	Utah	M8	at Utah

2. UNLV

National Rank 42

WHAT WE LIKE: The league's best backcourt resides at the Thomas & Mack Center as former Georgetown shooting guard Demetrius Hunter has come home to work with buddy Marcus Banks. They will cause opponents problems at both ends of the court. Throw in senior forward Dalron Johnson and the Runnin' Rebels have the best 1-2-3 punch not only in the Mountain West but maybe along the entire West Coast. Johnson is the school's career blocked shots leader, and he also averaged 17.4 points and 7.0 rebounds as a junior. Orchestrating all of this is veteran coach Charlie Spoonhour, who walked into a chaotic situation in the aftermath of the Bill Bayno firing and the Rick Pitino-search circus and restored order. Even Jerry Tarkanian is glad to see Spoon in Vegas, so he must be doing something right.

WHAT SCARES US: The Runnin' Rebels lacked a center even last year, despite going 21-11. That has to change. Spoonhour is rolling the dice with J.K. Edwards, a 6-8, 250-pound JC transfer. Edwards had a less-than-scintillating sophomore season at Indian Hills Community College and he will be watched very closely by UNLV fans. He doesn't need to be a star; he just has to show up every night, play hard and grab a few boards, hit a bucket or two inside and stay out of foul trouble.

X FACTOR: Jermaine Lewis sat out the 2001-02 season to let his surgically repaired right ACL heal. If he is healthy like he says he is, UNLV just gained a solid scoring replacement for Lou Kelly, not to mention a better defensive player. The 6-4 Lewis can play shooting guard and small forward. He also is the most coachable kid on Spoonhour's roster, so he'll accept whatever role is created for him. He'll play a lot and he'll help UNLV a lot, but only if his knee is OK.

Rebels Data

Coach: Charlie Spoonhour (21-11, 1 year; 340-182 overall, 17 years; 3-8 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Deane Martin (1 year), Jay Spoonhour (1), Derek Thomas (1).
2001-2002 record: 21-11. Mountain West: 9-5/3rd. Lost to South Carolina in NIT second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 89.
Last league title: 2000 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Las Vegas.
Website: www.unlvrebels.com
Home court: Thomas & Mack Center (18,500).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
22	F	Louis Amundson	6-7/205	So.	2.8	2.3	0.3	50.0	59.5	—
3	**G**	**Marcus Banks***	**6-1/195**	**Sr.**	**15.8**	**3.3**	**3.1**	**47.0**	**70.4**	**32.0**
24	G/F	Lamar Bigby	6-4/185	Sr.	2.5	1.3	0.3	40.9	75.0	36.4
55	C	J.K. Edwards	6-8/250	Jr.	1st team J.C. All-America as freshman.					
1	**G**	**Demetrius Hunter**	**6-2/210**	**Jr.**	**Avg. 9.2 ppg as Georgetown sophomore.**					
10	**F**	**Dalron Johnson***	**6-10/215**	**Sr.**	**17.4**	**7.0**	**2.1**	**46.6**	**85.8**	**32.2**
5	**G**	**Jermaine Lewis**	**6-4/200**	**Sr.**	**Sat out last season due to knee surgery.**					
20	G	Jon Osborne	6-1/170	Fr.	Averaged 10 ppg as high school senior.					
15	G	Mike Paulos	6-0/150	Fr.	All-around athlete coming off knee injury.					
14	**F**	**Omari Pearson**	**6-8/220**	**Jr.**	**3.6**	**2.8**	**3.1**	**52.9**	**53.2**	**—**
34	F	James Peters	6-8/215	Jr.	JC transfer averaged 16.8 points last year.					
12	G	Ernest Turner	6-2/195	So.	2.3	0.5	0.3	35.9	52.9	42.1

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Vince Booker*	6-1/175	4.9	1.8	2.3	42.5	72.4	39.7
G/F	Lou Kelly*	6-5/210	15.6	4.2	2.8	41.9	80.5	36.3
F	Chris Richardson*	6-6/185	9.1	5.3	1.0	56.5	60.6	36.0

Schedule

N24	Portland State	D21	Stanford	J20	Utah	F14	BYU
N27	UAB	D28	West Virginia	J25	at Air Force	F17	at Utah
N30	Washington	D29	SMU	J27	at New Mexico	F22	New Mexico
D4	at Nevada	J2	IUPU-Fort Wayne	F1	Wyoming	F24	Air Force
D7	at Wisconsin	J4	Santa Clara	F3	Colorado State	M1	at Colorado State
D17	Tennessee-Martin	J11	at DePaul	F9	USC	M3	at Wyoming
		J16	at BYU	F11	at San Diego St.	M8	San Diego State

3. BYU

National Rank 56

WHAT WE LIKE: Size, baby, size. The Cougars are big up front. Jared Jensen wasn't afraid to use his 6-9 frame as a freshman and now he has help in 6-11 JC transfer Rafael Araujo. Together, they will be a tough matchup for virtually every team in the league. You can bet coach Steve Cleveland will find a way to play these two together. He'll also put the ball in senior Travis Hansen's hands often, while getting junior swingman Mark Bigelow plenty of touches. Both can create their own shot and are talented players and natural scorers. Between them, they averaged more than 30 points a game last year for the Cougars.

WHAT SCARES US: Matt Montague was a solid point guard, registering more assists (217) than the rest of the roster combined. Now, somebody is going to have to get all these talented guys the ball. Can Kevin Woodberry run the team as well as he did in leading Dixie State College to a junior college national title a year ago? Woodberry is a strong leader and defender, but Division I is a lot different from junior college. Junior combo guard Ricky Bower, who sat out last season, could pick up some of the minutes at point guard. There's not a lot of quality depth, despite the fact Cleveland has been stockpiling players virtually since he arrived at BYU six years ago. Bench scoring could be a concern.

X FACTOR: Despite taking two seasons off for a mission, Bigelow got most of his game back as a sophomore. It took most of the season for him to get into game shape, but that is not an issue anymore. Now, the WAC Freshman of the Year in 1998-99 is ready to step up and lead this team. His teammates respect him and if Bigelow has his basketball universe in alignment, his opponents once again will fear his ability to take over a game.

Cougars Data

Coach: Steve Cleveland (85-69, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Dave Rose (5 years), Andy Toolson (1), John Wardenburg (1).
2001-2002 record: 18-12. Mountain West: 7-7/T4th. Lost to Memphis in NIT second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 112.
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Provo, Utah.
Website: www.byucougars.com
Home court: Marriott Center (22,700).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	John Allen	6-7/210	So.	Back from mission; may play some wing.					
55	**C**	**Rafael Araujo**	**6-11/260**	**Jr.**	**JC recruit is athletic leaper with range.**					
3	**F/G**	**Mark Bigelow***	**6-7/190**	**Jr.**	**14.9**	**2.7**	**1.5**	**43.5**	**80.3**	**42.2**
14	G	Ricky Bower	6-4/185	Jr.	Transfer averaged 4.3 points for Wisconsin.					
2	**G/F**	**Travis Hansen***	**6-6/210**	**Sr.**	**15.6**	**6.2**	**1.5**	**43.5**	**75.8**	**42.2**
40	C	Dan Howard	7-0/225	Jr.	1.8	2.2	0.0	59.1	60.0	—
52	**F/C**	**Jared Jensen***	**6-9/240**	**So.**	**8.6**	**3.5**	**0.2**	**59.1**	**84.5**	**—**
32	F	Bart Jepsen	6-9/235	Jr.	0.9	1.4	0.1	44.4	42.9	0.0
25	G	Luiz Lemes	6-3/185	Jr.	JC transfer can play both guard spots.					
10	G	Terry Nashif	5-10/165	So.	0.5	0.4	0.5	33.3	75.0	0.0
15	G	Marc Roberts	6-2/185	So.	Back from mission; adds depth at 2 guard.					
5	F	Jake Shoff	6-9/265	Jr.	Led Weber State in boards as a sophomore.					
23	**G**	**Kevin Woodberry**	**6-0/170**	**Jr.**	**Strong defender also can hit the 3.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Daniel Bobik	6-6/195	Transferred to Oklahoma State.					
G	Matt Montague*	6-0/190	6.2	4.2	7.2	42.3	73.2	31.3
F	Eric Nielsen*	6-9/215	10.0	5.1	1.0	50.2	71.0	44.4

Schedule

N22 Toledo*
N23 Kansas State*
N30 Rice
D4 at Arizona State
D7 at Creighton
D11 San Diego
D14 Utah State
D21 UC Santa Barbara
D23 at San Francisco
D28 Southern Utah
J2 Pepperdine
J4 at Oklahoma St.
J8 at Weber State
J11 Idaho State
J16 UNLV
J20 at San Diego St.
J25 Utah
F1 New Mexico
F3 Air Force
F8 at Wyoming
F10 at Colorado State
F14 at UNLV
F17 San Diego State
F24 at Utah
M1 at Air Force
M3 at New Mexico
M6 Wyoming
M8 Colorado State
*at St. Thomas, V.I.

4. Utah

National rank 60

WHAT WE LIKE: Here's a team that reinvented itself on the fly a year ago when a midseason injury shelved center Chris Burgess. The Utes changed from a low-post to a perimeter team. That gave guard Nick Jacobson a chance to blossom as a scorer, and he'll bring a world of confidence into this season. He also can play off senior forward Britton Johnsen, who was the league's outstanding player a year ago and is willing to carry his share of the load. In swingman Trace Caton, Utah has a versatile role player who can shut down an opponent or score, depending on what's needed, and help bring momentum to his team. And wasn't it good to see Rick Majerus back on the sideline? Even BYU fans have to admit not having the big guy to razz two years ago didn't feel right.

WHAT SCARES US: Utah has struggled with its point guard play recently. Kevin Bradley flunked out a year ago, and Travis Spivey graduated. Eric Osmundson and Martin Osimani both transferred, so Majerus likely will turn to Marc Jackson, who played for the Utes two seasons ago, transferred to Utah Valley State (a junior college) and returned. The other option is freshman Tim Drisdom, but as Osmundson and Osimani (and Jackson, for that matter) found out, Majerus isn't an easy guy to play for when you're new to college basketball. The lack of depth could hurt.

X FACTORS: Now that 6-10 transfer Tim Frost is eligible and 6-9 center Andrew Bogut will be eligible in mid-December, will Majerus go back to pounding it in the paint? Or will Jacobson, Johnsen and the others still have the green light to launch it from Temple Square? The perimeter game may remain in place until the new big men get comfortable with the system. Once again, Utah could be a team in transition.

Utes Data

Coach: Rick Majerus (283-82, 13 years; 382-134 overall, 18 years; 17-10 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Silvey Dominguez (1st year), Kerry Rupp (1 year), Eric Jackson (1st year).
2001-2002 record: 21-9. Mountain West: 10-4/2nd. Lost to Indiana in NCAA South first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 42.
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Salt Lake City.
Website: www.utahutes.com
Home court: Huntsman Center (15,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F/C	Andrew Bogut	6-9/205	Fr.	Australian will join team in December.					
21	G/F	Trace Caton	6-5/214	Sr.	4.8	2.1	1.3	46.1	82.8	50.0
	G/F	Richard Chaney	6-5/180	Fr.	Athletic; a solid defender who can score.					
	G	Tim Drisdom	6-3/195	Fr.	All-around point guard; must trim down.					
54	**C/F**	**Tim Frost**	**6-10/234**	**Jr.**	**1st team West Coast Conf. pick at Portland.**					
30	C	Chris Jackson	6-11/244	Fr.	Redshirt small-school product must adjust.					
5	**G**	**Marc Jackson**	**6-1/185**	**So.**	**Saw time at PG for Utes in 2000-01.**					
15	**G/F**	**Nick Jacobson***	**6-4/198**	**Jr.**	**13.0**	**2.0**	**1.7**	**43.9**	**74.6**	**44.4**
31	**F**	**Britton Johnsen***	**6-9/213**	**Sr.**	**12.6**	**6.3**	**1.5**	**49.6**	**60.1**	**35.6**
13	**C**	**Cameron Koford***	**6-11/230**	**Sr.**	**3.7**	**2.5**	**0.3**	**66.7**	**63.0**	**—**
	F	Bryant Markson	6-7/190	Fr.	Quick, athletic, needs to improve strength.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C/F	Chris Burgess	6-10/240	13.2	7.2	0.5	66.0	56.8	—
F/C	Phil Cullen	6-9/221	7.3	2.7	1.0	41.4	81.6	43.2
G/F	Jeff Johnsen*	6-4/204	10.6	3.0	2.8	42.9	73.6	35.5
G	Travis Spivey*	6-1/212	6.8	4.1	4.5	44.7	60.2	32.6

Schedule

N25-27 Maui Inv.
D3 Winthrop
D7 Arizona State
D14 Northern Iowa
D17 at Utah State
D20 at Pepperdine
D23 at San Diego
D30 Alabama
J3 Weber State
J6 St. Mary's
J11 IUPU-Fort Wayne
J14 Ripon
J18 at San Diego St.
J20 at UNLV
J25 at BYU
F1 Air Force
F3 New Mexico
F8 at Colorado State
F10 at Wyoming
F15 San Diego State
F17 UNLV
F24 at Wyoming
M1 at New Mexico
M3 at Air Force
M6 Colorado State
M8 Wyoming

5. San Diego State

National Rank 87

WHAT WE LIKE: Steve Fisher found the right blueprint for rebuilding the Aztecs. He went the D-1 transfer route, and guys like Tony Bland have rewarded him handsomely. The former Syracuse shooting guard is destined for a big senior season. Center Mike Mackell had a serviceable junior season despite playing in the shadow of Randy Holcomb. Holcomb is gone now, so look for Mackell to be a bigger part of the offense. Ditto junior Aerick Sanders, who, despite averaging fewer than nine minutes last year, showed the ability to play at this level. He just needs to get comfortable so his confidence can grow. Speaking of transfers, San Diego State gets former Arizona guard Travis Hanour and former Oregon State center Chris Manker eligible in mid-December. Hanour and Manker went to high school together in Laguna Beach, Calif., and as seniors led their team to second place in the state tournament. Both will be impact players and this could be a very dangerous team come March.

WHAT SCARES US: A lack of depth and a proven scorer who can strike fear into an opponent. When Al Faux had the ball last season, he was a threat to score from anywhere on the court and everyone knew it. There's no such player this year and teams will quickly figure out ways to keep Bland in check. Point guard Deandre Moore has yet to prove he can stay healthy, and with freshman Brandon Heath failing to qualify academically, San Diego State is dangerously thin at the point.

X FACTOR: Redshirt freshman Trimaine Davis is an athletic, 6-7 forward who can do several things well. Nobody's asking him to replace Holcomb. But if he can give Fisher 7 points a game and five or six rebounds plus play a little defense, that will be a big step in the right direction—both for Davis and the Aztecs.

Aztecs Data

Coach: Steve Fisher (40-49, 3 years; 224-131 overall; 11 years; 20-7 NCAA Tournament; won NCAA title with Michigan in 1989).
Assistant coaches: Brian Dutcher (3 years), Marvin Menzies (3), Gregg Gottlieb (1st).
2001-2002 record: 21-12. Mountain West: 7-7/T4th. Lost to Illinois in NCAA Midwest first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 80.
Last league title: 1978 (tie, Pacific Coast Athletic Association).
Last time did not make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: San Diego.
Website: www.goaztecs.com
Home court: Cox Arena (12,414).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	**G**	**Tony Bland***	**6-5/192**	**Sr.**	**15.7**	**4.0**	**3.4**	**44.5**	**71.0**	**35.8**
20	F	Trimaine Davis	6-7/212	Fr.	Redshirt averaged 14.7 boards in H.S.					
31	C	Samuel Eze	6-10/210	Fr.	Athletic Nigerian recruit must add bulk.					
5	**G**	**^Travis Hanour**	**6-6/195**	**So.**	**Arizona transfer is good outside shooter.**					
	G	Brandon Heath	6-2/170	Fr.	Did not qualify academically.					
0	G	Tommy Johnson	6-4/184	So.	1.5	0.9	0.4	36.4	25.0	33.3
30	**C**	**Mike Mackell***	**6-9/241**	**Sr.**	**10.6**	**4.4**	**0.5**	**52.4**	**72.8**	**—**
22	**C**	**^Chris Manker**	**6-11/225**	**So.**	**Oregon State transfer has 3-point range.**					
1	**G**	**Deandre Moore***	**5-10/195**	**Sr.**	**3.6**	**1.9**	**2.8**	**41.8**	**48.8**	**39.0**
34	F	Aerick Sanders	6-8/195	Jr.	2.5	3.1	0.2	56.1	50.0	—
21	G	Steve Sir	6-6/192	Fr.	Redshirt has outstanding range.					
3	F	Chris Walton	6-9/228	Jr.	2.8	3.1	0.9	41.8	59.3	0.0
40	F	Markee White	6-7/184	Fr.	Walk-on was also high school quarterback.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Al Faux*	6-2/186	17.0	3.6	1.8	47.0	67.7	41.0
F	Randy Holcomb*	6-9/219	16.9	9.0	1.7	51.6	63.5	30.0

^Will be eligible in December.

Schedule

N23	Eastern Washington	D14	Hawaii	J18	Utah
N27	at Portland	D21	at Houston	J20	Brigham Young
N30	at Cal Poly	D28	Florida Atlantic	J25	at New Mexico
D2	UC San Diego	D30	IUPU-Fort Wayne	J27	at Air Force
D7	Arizona	J3	Loyola Marymount	F1	Colorado State
D10	at Long Beach St.	J6	Texas Tech	F3	Wyoming
		J8	San Diego	F11	UNLV
				F15	at Utah
				F17	at Brigham Young
				F22	Air Force
				F24	New Mexico
				M1	at Wyoming
				M3	at Colorado State
				M8	at UNLV

6. Colorado State

National Rank 146

WHAT WE LIKE: Despite an onslaught of injuries, the Rams never quit last year, when it would have been easy to just pack it in. Give forward Brian Greene credit for setting a good example by showing up every night, playing hard and averaging 16.2 points despite receiving extra attention from opponents. When center Matt Nelson was on the floor, he was a force inside. The 7-footer played physically and effectively. But a foot injury slowed him at times. If he can stay healthy, Colorado State becomes a different team. Coach Dale Layer addressed his backcourt needs by recruiting three guards. That should allow Andy Birley to return to the shooting guard role, where he is better suited to help the Rams.

WHAT SCARES US: Layer is planning on turning over the point to one of several newcomers. There's a lot of experience on this team, with nine lettermen returning. Whoever handles the point had better find a way to quickly get on the same page as the veterans. Perhaps Layer may opt to keep Birley in charge until JC transfer Darien Chavis is ready to direct the offense. That would likely mean Ronnie Clark will get a chance to prove he can be consistent at shooting guard. He joined the team in midseason and was erratic.

X FACTOR: How do you possibly predict injuries? CSU had players out with injuries 18 times last year. While the team may be better prepared to weather another such disaster with its increased depth, injuries have to be in the back of Layer's mind, not to mention the minds of those who were hurt. Newcomers always are unpredictable, but guard/forward Shelton Johnson has a lot going for him. He averaged 23 points, 7.3 rebounds and almost four assists per game his senior season in high school.

Rams Data

Coach: Dale Layer (27-31, 2 years; 194-118 overall, 11 years).
Assistant coaches: Pat Eberhart (1 year), Bill Peterson (2), Buzz Williams (2).
2001-2002 record: 12-18. MWC: 3-11/T7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 160.
Last league title: 1990 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Fort Collins, Colo.
Website: www.csurams.com
Home court: Moby Arena (8,745).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
11	**G**	**Andy Birley***	**6-4/190**	**Sr.**	**11.8**	**2.4**	**3.9**	**41.7**	**80.6**	**42.3**
34	F/C	Darian Burke	6-10/250	Jr.	2.3	1.5	0.2	56.5	56.2	—
5	**G**	**Darien Chavis**	**5-11/160**	**So.**	**JC recruit has opportunity at the point.**					
20	G	Ronnie Clark	6-5/210	Jr.	7.1	3.9	0.4	51.4	65.9	44.4
33	**F**	**Brian Greene***	**6-8/225**	**Sr.**	**16.2**	**7.5**	**2.6**	**51.0**	**72.8**	**12.5**
22	G/F	Shelton Johnson	6-3/180	Fr.	Texas all-state prep is all-around player.					
32	G	Micheal Morris	6-3/185	Fr.	Led high school to Texas small-school title.					
54	**C**	**Matt Nelson***	**7-0/240**	**So.**	**14.0**	**5.0**	**0.7**	**61.3**	**75.7**	**—**
10	G	Jon Rakiecki*	6-3/195	So.	5.1	2.8	2.0	35.8	75.0	38.2
13	G/F	Freddy Robinson	6-5/180	So.	3.3	1.7	0.5	31.4	52.9	26.7
3	F	Quantone Smith	6-8/250	Sr.	3.8	1.9	0.6	46.9	50.0	—
1	G	Derrick Stevens	5-10/180	Jr.	Midseason walk-on PG saw no game action.					
42	**F**	**Matt Williams***	**6-6/210**	**So.**	**6.0**	**3.9**	**0.6**	**59.8**	**61.6**	**0.0**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Matt Brown	6-9/215	4.2	3.1	1.4	54.0	46.9	0.0
G	Joe Macklin	5-11/175	4.0	3.3	3.1	34.7	67.4	25.9

Schedule

N25	Tex. A&M-Kingsville	D14	Washington State	J18	Air Force
N27	at Southern Illinois	D22	South Carolina	J25	Wyoming
N30	at Ark.-Little Rock	D27	Prairie View	F1	at San Diego St.
D3	West Alabama	D30	at Purdue	F3	at UNLV
D7	Gardner-Webb	J3	South Florida	F8	Utah
D11	Denver	J7	at Colorado	F10	BYU
		J13	New Mexico	F15	at Air Force
				F17	at New Mexico
				F22	at Wyoming
				M1	UNLV
				M3	San Diego State
				M6	at Utah
				M8	at BYU

7. New Mexico

National Rank 151

WHAT WE LIKE: Shooting guard Ruben Douglas, the best basketball player in the league, resides here. Many were surprised to see him balk at turning pro last spring after the Lobos changed coaches, but the 6-5 guard is back and so is his excellent scoring ability. Douglas averaged a league-leading 18.1 points last year, including 27.3 down the stretch. Fellow guard Senque Carey struggled as a junior, but maybe he will return to the form he displayed at Washington from 1998-2000. Chad Bell and Cody Payne are hard-working strong guys who aren't afraid to mix it up underneath. Rebounding was a glaring weakness for New Mexico last year, but these two may be able to help turn that around. Bell, a 6-11 sophomore, started strongly last year but tailed off toward the end of the season.

WHAT SCARES US: If Douglas gets hurt and is lost for any appreciable length of time, look out below. The cellar could be calling, a thought most Lobos fans would find appalling. There is little proven scoring after Douglas. Lack of rebounding is an issue, and the entire league is better than when Ritchie McKay coached at Colorado State a couple of years ago. A new system with a lot of new faces. Boy, will the patience of the loyal New Mexico fans be tested this season.

X FACTOR: How will this puzzle fit together? McKay says he will try to play uptempo, have his team shoot 3-pointers and get after people. No one's sure he has all the pieces in place to make it work. He got a late start on recruiting, having been hired on the eve of the Final Four, and Douglas, as great as he is, can only do so much. Teams will do everything they can to slow Douglas down, knowing the Lobos will have to prove there's someone else ready to step up.

Lobos Data

Coach: Ritchie McKay (1st year; 83-89 overall, 6 years)
Assistant coaches: Brad Soucie (1st year), Scott Didrickson (1st year), Duane Broussard (1st year).
2001-2002 record: 16-14. Mountain West: 6-8/7th. Lost to Minnesota in NIT first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 57.
Last league title: 1994 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Albuquerque, N.M.
Website: www.golobos.com
Home court: The Pit/Bob King Court (18,018).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Ryan Ashcraft	6-2/175	Jr.	0.5	0.4	0.3	22.2	—	14.3
1	**C**	**Chad Bell***	**6-11/230**	**So.**	**3.1**	**2.1**	**0.4**	**44.1**	**54.3**	**—**
3	**G**	**Senque Carey***	**6-4/210**	**Sr.**	**6.0**	**4.1**	**3.2**	**36.7**	**68.3**	**19.4**
13	C	David Chiotti	6-9/250	Fr.	Hard worker, tough; could play plenty.					
5	**G**	**Ruben Douglas***	**6-5/200**	**Sr.**	**18.1**	**4.5**	**1.4**	**42.9**	**83.8**	**44.9**
42	F	Michael McCowan	6-7/245	So.	Averaged 8 points in lone JC season.					
32	F	Mikal Monette	6-6/210	Fr.	A walk-on from local Cibola High.					
40	**F**	**Cody Payne**	**6-7/235**	**Sr.**	**2.8**	**2.9**	**0.3**	**50.0**	**50.0**	**23.1**
21	G	Javin Tindall	5-11/175	Jr.	Led JC team to D-2 national championship.					
0	G	Mark Walters	6-2/195	Fr.	Strong, quick, athletic; redshirted last year.					
24	**F**	**Jamaal Williams**	**6-6/230**	**So.**	**7.7**	**5.1**	**0.3**	**51.9**	**38.0**	**25.0**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Eric Chatfield*	6-3/215	12.1	2.5	3.0	44.7	70.5	37.4
C	Patrick Dennehy*	6-9/220	10.6	7.5	0.7	50.8	62.9	50.0
G	Marlon Parmer	6-2/180	12.8	5.4	5.4	41.1	59.6	31.9

Schedule

N23	California	D18	at Texas Tech	J22	W. New Mexico	F17	Colorado State
N25	Northwestern St.	D21	Southern Utah	J25	San Diego State	F22	at UNLV
N30	at New Mexico St.	D28-29	Lobo Inv.	J27	UNLV	F24	at San Diego St.
D2	Northeastern	J4	at Tennessee	F1	at BYU	M1	Utah
D6	IUPU-Fort Wayne	J7	Northern Arizona	F3	at Utah	M3	BYU
D15	New Mexico State	J13	at Colorado State	F8	Air Force	M8	at Air Force
		J18	at Wyoming	F15	Wyoming		

8. Air Force

National Rank 173

WHAT WE LIKE: The Falcons have gotten comfortable with the Princeton system Joe Scott brought with him, and they have become a royal pain for the rest of the Mountain West to deal with. The players know they can compete playing this way, and they are fun to watch, especially when the 3-point shots are dropping. Tom Bellairs is the best passing big man in the league, and power forward Joel Gerlach has evolved into a very solid player. This year the Falcons will have some depth at the power positions, with 6-11 forward/center Deane Lake expected to play right away. Chemistry is working in the team's favor, too, with senior point guard Vernard Jenkins possessing the right temperament to run the team for the volatile Scott. Jenkins also leads by example on defense—he racked up 46 steals last season on his way to ranking fifth on the team's all-time steals list.

WHAT SCARES US: Air Force may be deeper, but are the Falcons any more talented? Perhaps they *are* better, but so are most of the teams they're trying to catch. Recent conference power Wyoming and UNLV, BYU and Colorado State are all improved from a year ago, and the Falcons don't have the top-to-bottom talent to match up with a Utah or a San Diego State. Gerlach is constantly in foul trouble (he fouled out nine times last season), and for Air Force to step up in the standings, it needs Gerlach on the floor.

X FACTOR: If the depth Scott talks about is legitimate, perhaps Gerlach will last longer because Scott can substitute out last season's second-leading scorer when he gets a second or third foul instead of leaving him out there because no one else is available. If Lake can play, Bellairs can spend more time in the high post and not worry about low-post responsibilities on defense.

Falcons Data

Coach: Joe Scott (17-40, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Chris Mooney (2 years), Mike McKee (1), Larry Mangino (2), Jon Jordan (2).
2001-2002 record: 9-19. Mountain West: 3-11/T7th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 203.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1962.
Site: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Website: www.airforcesports.com
Home court: Clune Arena (6,002).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
32	**F/C**	**Tom Bellairs***	**6-7/230**	**Sr.**	**10.3**	**5.1**	**2.1**	**49.8**	**49.5**	**41.3**
	F	J.J. Brull	6-6/180	Fr.	Averaged 16.5 points as high school senior.					
33	**F**	**Joel Gerlach***	**6-6/190**	**Jr.**	**11.4**	**3.4**	**0.8**	**53.0**	**79.2**	**38.6**
35	F	Marc Holum	6-6/190	So.	1.5	0.9	0.0	44.4	100	40.0
	G	Antoine Hood	6-3/170	Fr.	Averaged 12.8 points as high school senior.					
22	**G**	**Vernard Jenkins***	**5-9/185**	**Sr.**	**4.3**	**2.1**	**2.4**	**48.4**	**43.6**	**31.6**
	F/C	Deane Lake	6-11/190	Fr.	McDonald's All-American nominee.					
11	**G**	**Tim Keller**	**6-3/175**	**So.**	**5.6**	**1.6**	**1.3**	**37.9**	**81.1**	**40.5**
10	**G/F**	**A.J. Kuhle***	**6-3/185**	**Jr.**	**8.8**	**2.9**	**1.9**	**43.3**	**79.5**	**37.5**
	F/C	Deane Lake	6-11/190	Fr.	Led high school to 23-2 record.					
40	F	David Peterson	6-8/190	So.	1.9	0.9	0.8	60.0	50.0	40.0
50	F	Tysen Pina	6-8/215	Jr.	1.1	0.7	0.1	50.0	50.0	33.3
	F	Nick Welch	6-7/195	Fr.	Solid rebounder in high school.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Donny Legans	6-3/180	Quit team.					
G	Lamoni Yazzie*	6-1/180	12.4	2.3	2.0	44.1	86.4	37.3

Schedule

N23	at Louisville	D11	Belmont	J20	at Wyoming	F17	Wyoming
N26	Stetson	D22	at Oakland	J25	UNLV	F22	at San Diego St.
N29	at Arkansas State	D27-28	SunClassic	J27	San Diego State	F24	at UNLV
D1	at Tennessee Tech	J1	Georgia Southern	F1	at Utah	M1	BYU
D5	Texas-Pan American	J4	Navy	F3	at BYU	M3	Utah
D8	at Georgia Southern	J6	Savannah State	F8	at New Mexico	M8	New Mexico
		J18	at Colorado State	F15	Colorado State		

Atlantic 10

After sending as many teams—one—to the NCAA Tournament last season as did the Atlantic Sun Conference, the Atlantic 10 faces what could be considered a season of reckoning. A quick scan of the league reveals one powerhouse—Xavier—and a dense group of middle-of-the-road types that look just good enough to host (if they're lucky) first-round NIT games next March. Even Temple, long the A-10 staple, faces uncertainty after failing to qualify for the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 13 seasons.

A brisk turnover in the coaching ranks can be blamed for part of the problem, although that hasn't stopped Xavier from thriving. Some point the finger at the nation's big boys, who won't give A-10 teams home-and-home contracts for games that would boost RPI ratings leaguewide. More accurate, not to mention disturbing, is that the league is suffering from a dip in overall talent. Since 1995, just three players from the Atlantic 10 (Marcus Camby, Lamar Odom and James Posey) have been selected in the first round of the NBA draft. That's not good.

Things aren't bleak—Dayton, Temple and Saint Joseph's have NCAA tourney hopes—but they could be better. They have been better. How well the Xavier-chasers perform and the progress of rising programs such as Massachusetts, La Salle and Richmond will determine if the Atlantic 10 regains solid footing.

ASCENDING: La Salle. Coach Billy Hahn sweated his way through a tough first year with the Explorers but could see legitimate progress by season's end. Although high-scoring wing Rasual Butler has moved on to the NBA (he hopes), La Salle has some big dreams. Sophomore guard Mike Cleaves is a star-in-waiting, and sophomore Steven Smith, a non-qualifier last year, has tremendous potential.

DESCENDING: Fordham. Remember when we thought the Rams were on the rise? Coach Bob Hill convinced us he had raided the traditional New York recruiting dens of the nation's top prep teams and landed some high-quality players. Well, most of them are gone, having transferred, tried the NBA or just dropped out. Now the team is looking at another rebuilding project and the unsavory prospect of watching several A-10 rivals pass it by.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Lynn Greer, Temple. Somebody must run the Owls now that Greer has graduated, and coach John Chaney isn't sure who that somebody will be. Perhaps junior David Hawkins will get the nod, even though he's better suited for the wing. It could be inconsistent sophomore Nile Murry or newcomer Chris Gaither. But neither gives Chaney confidence.

2. Bill Phillips, Saint Joseph's. The Hawks lost four senior starters, with Phillips perhaps the biggest. Freshman power forward Dave Mallon has Phillips-like skills but lacks his predecessor's savvy and reliability.

3. David Morris, Dayton. Morris wasn't the league's best point guard, but he was steady and productive. Now it's up to sophomore Mark Jones or one of two freshmen, Warren Williams or Logan White, to take the reins of a team capable of good things.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Anthony Anderson, Massachusetts. Anderson, a point guard, was second on the team in scoring, had 37 more assists than

PREDICTIONS

East
1. Temple*
2. Saint Joseph's
3. Massachusetts
4. St. Bonaventure
5. Fordham
6. Rhode Island

West
1. Xavier*
2. Dayton
3. Richmond
4. La Salle
5. George Washington
6. Duquesne

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jameer Nelson, Saint Joseph's	6-0	190	Jr.
G	Marques Green, St. Bonaventure	5-7	160	Jr.
G	Chris Monroe, G. Washington	6-3	215	Sr.
F	Romain Sato, Xavier	6-5	205	Jr.
C	David West, Xavier	6-9	240	Sr.

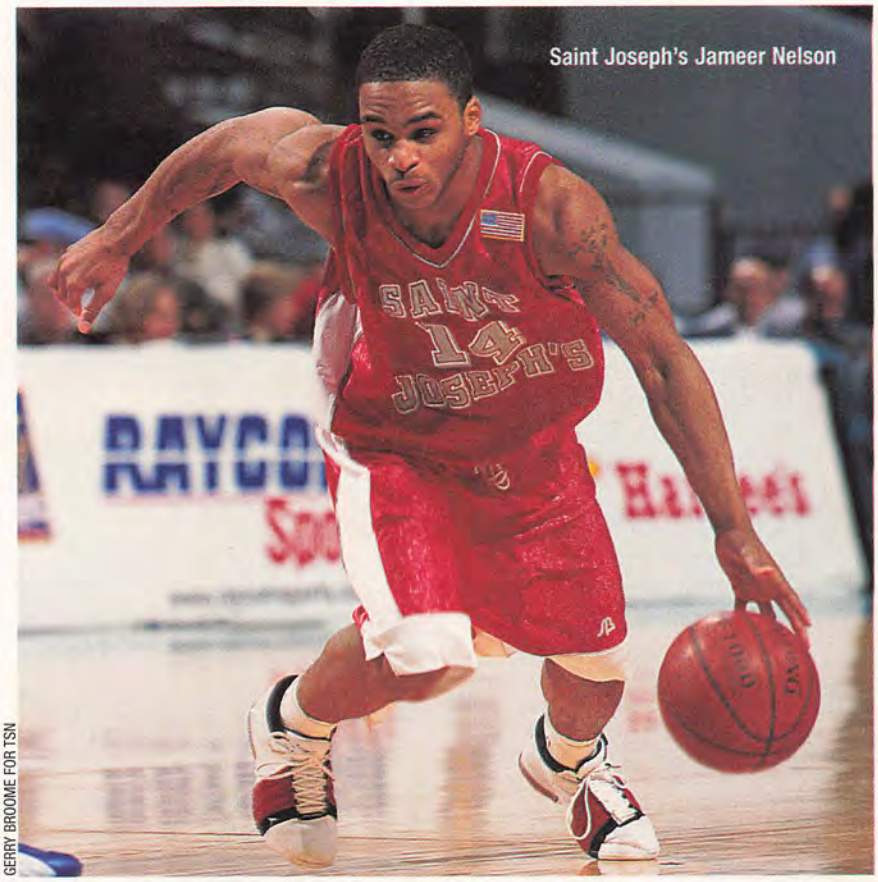
Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Mike Cleaves, La Salle	5-10	175	So.
G	David Hawkins, Temple	6-4	215	Jr.
G	Lionel Chalmers, Xavier	6-0	180	Sr.
F	Mike Skrocki, Richmond	6-6	195	Jr.
F	Keith Waleskowski, Dayton	6-9	240	Jr.

Player of the Year
David West, Xavier

Newcomer of the Year
Keith Butler, C, Temple

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Romain Sato, Xavier
Best playmaker: Jameer Nelson, St. Joseph's
Best rebounder: David West, Xavier
Best defender: Romain Sato, Xavier
Best dunker: Romain Sato, Xavier
Best NBA prospect: Jameer Nelson, St. Joseph's
Most likely to blossom: Michael Haynes, Fordham
Best game coach: Phil Martelli, St. Joseph's
Most versatile: Michael Haynes, Fordham
Will take a charge: Alex Wesby, Temple



Saint Joseph's Jameer Nelson

GERRY BROOME FOR TSN

turnovers, shot 38.8 percent from 3-point range and played a strong 34 minutes a game last season. He might not be a star, but he's solid on the Minutemen's back line.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Bob Hill, Fordham. When Hill took the job, he crowed about his NBA pedigree and how he would return Fordham to its previous lofty perch in the Eastern basketball world. That hasn't happened. The Rams are in a shambles, with just three scholarship players back from last year's team. But Hill remains as self-involved as ever. Another sub-.500 season would be his fourth straight and could land him back in the NBA—as an assistant.

BEST BETS: Temple again will play the league's most demanding schedule. Don't believe us? The Owls play five nonconference road games from December 1-14, including matchups with Wake Forest, Illinois, Charlotte and Pennsylvania. … Massachusetts will score more points this season than it did in 2001-02. OK, so that's not big news given the Minutemen's weak effort last season, but UMass will be much more exciting. … Richmond under new coach Jerry Wainwright will look a lot like Richmond under old coach John Beilein. The Spiders will play great defense and shoot plenty of 3-pointers. … Although Eastern journalists will complain, the A-10's decision to move its tournament to Dayton will prove to be a successful one, with large, enthusiastic crowds replacing the tomb-like atmosphere that prevailed in most games played at Philadelphia's Spectrum. … If Saint Joseph's point guard Jameer Nelson adds a consistent long-range jumper to his excellent penetration game, look for him to seriously consider forgoing his final year with the Hawks for the NBA draft.

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. **Massachusetts:** Mike Lasme adds size. UConn transfer Marcus Cox is icing.
2. **Dayton:** The Flyers fortified their backcourt with Logan White and Warren Williams.
3. **Xavier:** JC newcomers F/C Randy Holbrook and F Anthony Myles are the keys to the class.
4. **St. Joseph's:** G Dwayne Lee is a fine addition. F Dave Mallon is expected to start.
5. **Temple:** C Keith Butler fits perfectly. PG Chris Gaither could be starting by February.
6. **George Washington:** 6-11 Alexander Kireev will start. F Omar Williams is versatile.
7. **La Salle:** The team can't wait to turn Steve Smith, a 6-8 sophomore non-qualifier, loose.
8. **St. Bonaventure:** Five-man class includes Virginia transfer F Maurice Young.
9. **Richmond:** Kevin Steenberge is a legitimate big man. Jamaal Scott is a high-scoring wing.
10. **Fordham:** G John Blackgrove is the plum. Mushon Ya'akosi is tabbed "Jewish Rodman."
11. **Duquesne:** Gonzaga G Jimmy Tricco joins JC wing Elijah Palmer, JC banger Ron Dokes.
12. **Rhode Island:** F Terrence Mack should start right away. PG Dawan Robinson is athletic.

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Chris Monroe	G. Washington	21.1
David West	Xavier	18.3
Romain Sato	Xavier	16.1
Marques Green	St. Bonaventure	15.4
David Hawkins	Temple	15.1

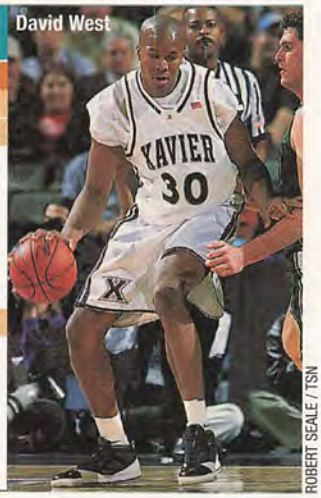
Name	School	RPG
David West	Xavier	9.8
Chukwunike Okosa	La Salle	8.2
Keith Waleskowski	Dayton	8.0
Romain Sato	Xavier	6.6
Chris Monroe	G. Washington	6.1

Name	School	APG
Jameer Nelson	St. Joseph's	6.3
Marques Green	St. Bonaventure	6.0
Lionel Chalmers	Xavier	4.2
T.J. Thompson	G. Washington	4.2
Darnell Miller	G. Washington	3.9

Name	School	FG%
David West	Xavier	53.6
Romain Sato	Xaver	46.2
Chris Monroe	G. Washington	43.7
David Hawkins	Temple	41.3
Reggie Brown	Richmond	35.8

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
East								
Temple	12	4	19	15	10	4	9	11
Saint Joseph's	12	4	19	12	9	2	10	10
St. Bonaventure	8	8	17	13	9	3	8	10
Massachusetts	6	10	13	16	9	6	4	10
Fordham	4	12	8	20	5	5	3	15
Rhode Island	4	12	8	20	5	6	3	14
West								
Xavier	14	2	26	6	13	1	13	5
Richmond	11	5	22	14	11	5	11	9
Dayton	10	6	21	11	13	4	8	7
La Salle	6	10	15	17	6	5	9	12
George Washington	5	11	12	16	7	5	5	11
Duquesne	4	12	9	19	7	6	2	13


David West

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Team stats

Total offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
St. Bonaventure	30	42.8	75.9	35.0	31.6	13.1	9.7	0.8	11.6	80.5
St. Joseph's	31	45.9	68.9	35.4	36.8	15.3	5.3	3.1	12.1	76.2
Dayton	32	44.8	68.1	35.6	39.9	17.1	5.8	3.3	13.5	73.1
Xavier	32	44.9	72.1	35.7	37.1	12.5	6.7	4.5	13.6	72.4
Fordham	28	45.1	57.2	28.7	39.4	14.7	8.9	3.3	19.5	70.7
Temple	34	41.9	68.9	34.3	36.6	11.0	8.1	3.2	10.5	70.1
George Washington	28	40.6	71.6	33.7	34.8	13.0	6.3	3.8	16.0	69.5
La Salle	32	41.1	73.5	32.5	37.3	12.4	6.5	3.2	14.8	66.5
Massachusetts	29	41.7	66.9	34.8	35.3	14.6	5.9	3.7	14.7	64.3
Duquesne	28	42.1	72.5	34.9	33.6	11.6	5.8	2.5	16.0	64.0
Richmond	36	40.0	70.5	31.2	30.3	14.1	7.3	3.7	10.3	62.8
Rhode Island	28	38.1	69.0	31.0	35.1	12.0	6.2	2.6	13.8	61.8

Total defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Richmond	36	41.9	69.6	33.9	38.4	12.3	4.3	2.4	14.9	61.5
Xavier	32	40.0	66.9	30.7	33.3	12.2	6.0	3.2	13.6	62.6
Dayton	32	40.0	69.3	32.1	31.7	11.1	5.6	3.3	12.4	63.8
Massachusetts	29	40.6	67.3	31.7	35.1	11.1	7.0	3.2	12.2	65.9
Temple	34	40.8	66.0	36.5	37.0	16.0	4.7	2.0	13.0	67.1
La Salle	32	40.6	73.0	34.0	35.5	13.6	7.8	3.9	14.0	68.4
Rhode Island	28	44.7	70.5	35.7	36.6	15.3	6.7	4.0	13.9	71.0
Duquesne	28	42.5	67.6	35.9	36.9	15.0	5.9	4.0	13.9	72.1
St. Joseph's	31	44.1	67.6	35.8	34.7	14.7	6.1	3.2	12.3	72.5
George Washington	28	44.0	68.8	36.2	37.9	16.1	7.1	3.7	15.2	75.2
St. Bonaventure	30	51.1	66.7	38.5	38.2	15.2	5.0	2.8	18.3	78.1
Fordham	28	42.5	71.6	37.0	37.5	15.0	10.1	3.2	16.0	78.5

1. Temple

National Rank 46

WHAT WE LIKE: This could be a more athletic Temple team than we're used to seeing. The return of guards David Hawkins, Brian Polk and Nile Murry gives coach John Chaney experience, versatility and long-range shooting. Add in freshman walk-on Chris Gaither, a true point who came to Temple even though no scholarship was available for him, and first-year wing Maurice Collins, and Chaney has plenty of options along the perimeter. Whether he uses them, of course, is the big question. Expect more great defense from the Owls, particularly if 7-0, 260-pound freshman Keith Butler is eligible and lives up to his considerable potential. Senior small forward Alex Wesby has developed into a valuable offensive weapon and could see time at power forward.

WHAT SCARES US: Who's the point guard? Chaney would hate to turn the reins over to a freshman, so it's hard to imagine Gaither running the show despite his high school success. Hawkins did the job fairly well in two NIT games last year, but he's a wing scorer, not a lead guard. Murry was hugely inconsistent last year. It could be a committee thing, with Hawkins, Murry, Gaither and even Collins in the mix. That's not Chaney's favorite scenario, but he may have no choice. Frontcourt depth could be another problem. Butler should be fine, but he needs help.

X FACTOR: Once again, Temple plays a ridiculous schedule. The Owls often have overcome slow starts with strong conference finishes. This year could be different, since the Atlantic 10 tourney shifts from Philadelphia to Dayton. Because of that, the Owls no longer can count on home cooking if they need a win or two to qualify for the NCAA tourney. A slow start, combined with uncertainty at the point and that March trip to southern Ohio, could keep Temple out of the NCAAs for a second straight year.

Owls Data

Coach: John Chaney (450-194, 20 years; 675-253, 30 years; 23-18 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Nate Blackwell (6 years), Dan Leibovitz (6).
2001-2002 record: 19-15. Atlantic 10 East: 12-4/T1st. Lost to Memphis in NIT semifinals, beat Syracuse for 3rd place.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 24.
Last league title: 2002 (tied, A-10 East).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Philadelphia.
Website: www.owlsports.com
Home court: Liacouras Center (10,206).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
44	**C**	**Keith Butler**	**7-0/260**	**Fr.**	**Big man didn't play basketball senior year.**					
25	G	Maurice Collins	6-5/205	Fr.	Was second-team all-city in Philadelphia.					
4	F	Glen Elliott	6-9/235	So.	0.6	0.9	0.0	63.6	30.0	—
10	G	Chris Gaither	6-1/185	Fr.	Walk-on was first-team all-state in Kentucky.					
34	**G**	**David Hawkins***	**6-4/215**	**Jr.**	**15.1**	**5.8**	**2.3**	**41.3**	**67.3**	**32.3**
33	F	Nehemiah Ingram	6-8/225	So.	Sat out last season under NCAA rules.					
1	F	Greg Jefferson	6-5/220	Sr.	1.5	1.8	0.2	59.3	43.8	50.0
21	**G**	**Nile Murry**	**6-4/205**	**So.**	**5.3**	**3.0**	**1.7**	**38.8**	**51.5**	**37.1**
3	**G**	**Brian Polk**	**6-4/210**	**Jr.**	**8.5**	**4.0**	**0.7**	**39.8**	**57.1**	**34.1**
32	F	Antywane Robinson	6-8/210	Fr.	Avg. 6 ppg for prep power Oak Hill Academy.					
15	F	Hawley Smith	6-6/220	So.	1.2	0.8	0.2	44.1	100.0	38.9
23	**F**	**Alex Wesby***	**6-6/190**	**Sr.**	**11.3**	**5.9**	**1.3**	**38.4**	**66.7**	**28.8**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Lynn Greer*	6-2/175	23.2	3.1	4.2	40.4	87.3	38.6
F	Kevin Lyde*	6-10/260	8.6	7.8	1.6	52.0	50.0	—
C	Ron Rollerson*	6-10/295	3.6	4.4	0.2	47.7	76.7	—

Schedule

N24	Rutgers	D14	Illinois*	J18	Fordham	F19	Rhode Island
D1	at Wake Forest	D26	Wisconsin	J22	at Rhode Island	F23	at Fordham
D2	at South Carolina	D28	Indiana	J26	Dayton	F26	at Massachusetts
D4	at Charlotte	D31	Villanova	F1	at St. Bonaventure	M1	St. Bonaventure
D7	at Pennsylvania	J5	George Washington	F5	La Salle	M8	at Xavier
D11	at Penn State	J8	at Duquesne	F8	Massachusetts	*at Chicago	
		J11	at Richmond	F12	at Saint Joseph's		
		J14	Saint Joseph's	F15	NC State		

2. Saint Joseph's

National Rank 58

WHAT WE LIKE: Jameer Nelson led the A-10 in assists the past two seasons, and it will be no surprise if he makes it three straight, but look for him to score more this season. He'll have to because of the departure of Bill Phillips and Marvin O'Connor. Sophomore Delonte West has the talent and athletic ability to be a productive scorer but must improve his aim. Coach Phil Martelli likely will use a three-guard lineup most of the time, with capable junior Tyrone Barley swinging between the point and wing and touted freshman Dwayne Lee playing some at both spots. Another newcomer, 6-10 Dave Mallon, has the skills to slide into the four spot, and 7-1 senior Alexandre Sazonov is healthy and ready to add defense and rebounding in the middle.

WHAT SCARES US: The Hawks lost four major contributors from last season. Granted, they struggled with the high expectations of '01-02, but they still were the foundation of a highly successful two-year run. Now Saint Joseph's must rely on untested players who have yet to deliver consistently in games. Mallon has Phillips-like talents, but does he have Phillips' intensity? West could become a potent wing force, but does he have O'Connor's fearlessness? Sazonov's legs may be healed, but what about his head? He must play with more focus. Newcomers Chet Stachitas, a 6-5 wing, and 6-11 Chris Cologer have potential, but Stachitas' shot is questionable, and Cologer is rail-thin.

X FACTOR: Hawks fans have spent three years rooting for Sazonov and suffering through his various hair adventures. They would rather see him concentrate on his basketball. Martelli raved about Saz's potential in the past, but now Sazonov must give Saint Joseph's a season of solid play, or the Hawks will have to rely on their newcomers up front. That probably is asking too much.

Hawks Data

Coach: Phil Martelli (126-90, 7 years; 3-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Matt Brady (9 years), Monte´ Ross (6), Mark Bass (3).
2001-2002 record: 19-12. Atlantic 10 East: 12-4/T1st. Lost to Ball State in NIT first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 8.
Last league title: 2001.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Philadelphia.
Website: www.sjuhawks.com
Home court: Alumni Memorial F.H. (3,200).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	**G**	**Tyrone Barley**	**6-1/185**	**Jr.**	**1.6**	**0.7**	**0.8**	**30.8**	**60.0**	**21.7**
34	F	John Bryant	6-7/220	So.	1.4	1.5	0.1	56.7	41.2	—
33	G/F	Pat Carroll	6-5/190	So.	1.2	0.9	0.2	30.8	75.0	50.0
1	C	Chris Cologer	6-11/210	Jr.	French native should share PT with Sazonov.					
3	G	Mike Farrelly	6-1/175	Sr.	0.4	0.0	0.1	100.0	0.0	100.0
21	C	Dwayne Jones	6-11/225	Fr.	Good shot-blocker; redshirted last season.					
5	**G**	**Dwayne Lee**	**6-0/180**	**Fr.**	**Helped St. Anthony's win N.J. state title.**					
40	**F**	**Dave Mallon**	**6-10/230**	**Fr.**	**Power forward should replace Bill Phillips.**					
10	G	Phil Martelli Jr.	5-10/155	Sr.	0.3	0.0	0.1	50.0	—	0.0
14	**G**	**Jameer Nelson***	**6-0/190**	**Jr.**	**14.4**	**4.8**	**6.3**	**43.8**	**76.2**	**35.9**
51	**C**	**Alexandre Sazonov**	**7-1/235**	**Sr.**	**3.0**	**2.0**	**0.1**	**41.4**	**63.6**	**100.0**
13	G/F	Chet Stachitas	6-5/190	Fr.	MVP for Nease, the Florida Class AAA champs.					
15	G	Delonte West	6-3/180	So.	5.9	3.0	1.2	46.9	66.7	11.8
55	F	Mike Williams	6-5/260	Fr.	Led St. Raphael Aca. to four R.I. state titles.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Na'im Crenshaw*	6-5/180	13.8	3.7	1.6	41.8	68.9	36.6
G	Marvin O'Connor*	6-4/200	17.5	4.2	2.5	42.9	71.7	28.6
F	Bill Phillips*	6-10/240	11.6	7.6	2.6	52.0	66.2	49.5
C	Damian Reid*	6-9/240	9.3	6.7	0.2	61.3	69.7	60.0

Schedule

N23	at Boston College	D21	DePaul	J19	at Rhode Island	F12	Temple
N26	at Canisius	D28	at Pacific	J22	Fordham	F15	at Dayton
D1	Old Dominion	D31	at Gonzaga	J25	Pennsylvania	F23	St. Bonaventure
D5	Boston University	J5	Duquesne	J29	at G. Washington	F26	at La Salle
D7	at Drexel	J8	at St. Bonaventure	F1	Rhode Island	M2	Richmond
D9	Delaware	J11	Massachusetts	F3	Villanova	M5	Xavier
		J14	at Temple	F9	at Fordham	M8	at Massachusetts

3. Massachusetts

National Rank 106

WHAT WE LIKE: For the first time in a while, the Minutemen have some depth, and there will be considerable competition at each position. A crop of four freshmen, the return of redshirt Jackie Rogers, the eligibilities of Connecticut transfer Marcus Cox and academic non-qualifier Gabriel Lee and three returning starters give coach Steve Lappas plenty of options. Anthony Anderson, a good distributor and 3-point shooter, will start at the point. Senior Micah Brand isn't going to overwhelm anybody, but he has the potential to be a double-figure scorer and the size to rebound well. Rogers will help considerably, particularly if he plays as well as he did during the last half of the 2000-01 season, when he was valuable inside. Cox is the front-runner at off-guard and could be joined on the wing by 6-2 freshman Michael Lasme.

WHAT SCARES US: There is more top-to-bottom talent on the UMass roster than there has been in a long time, but finding roles for everybody won't be so easy. How will Cox and Lasme fit along the perimeter, and what happens to 3-point specialist Kyle Wilson? It won't be easy finding enough time for five big men, and junior swingman Raheim Lamb needs some playing time, too. Whoever steps onto the court had better be able to score. And something has to be done about the turnovers. Massachusetts committed 426 of them last year and forced just 353.

X FACTOR: Rogers' return could be a big boost for the Minutemen, who need a tough, willing defender and rebounder. Had Rogers played last season, he would have been toiling for his fourth coach in as many years, and he likely would have struggled to complete his degree work. By redshirting voluntarily, he adjusted to Lappas' system, put his academics in order and prepared for a big final campaign. That's all good news for the Minutemen.

Minutemen Data

Coach: Steve Lappas (13-16, 1 year; 243-188 overall, 14 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: John Leonard (1 year), Chris Walker (1), Andrew Theokas (1).
2001-2002 record: 13-16. Atlantic 10 East: 6-10/4th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 68.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Amherst, Mass.
Website: www.umassathletics.com
Home court: Mullins Center (9,493).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	**G**	**Anthony Anderson***	**5-11/175**	**Jr.**	**10.0**	**3.4**	**3.4**	**40.8**	**45.3**	**38.8**
40	**F/C**	**Micah Brand***	**6-11/243**	**Sr.**	**9.3**	**5.7**	**1.4**	**43.2**	**66.1**	**35.0**
3	F	Stephen Briggs	6-9/220	Fr.	Will help fill the team's need for height.					
50	**G**	**Marcus Cox**	**6-4/195**	**Jr.**	**Transferred from Connecticut.**					
14	G	Paco Kotaridis	5-11/185	Jr.	0.6	0.2	0.2	100.0	0.0	100.0
21	F	Alassane Kouyate	6-9/225	Fr.	Mali native played H.S. ball in Ohio.					
1	**G**	**Michael Lasme**	**6-2/190**	**Fr.**	**Leaping ability will get him minutes.**					
34	F	Raheim Lamb*	6-5/190	Jr.	5.7	3.4	0.8	43.8	75.0	22.2
4	C	Gabriel Lee	6-9/225	So.	Prop. 48 player sat out last season.					
0	F	Brennan Martin	6-6/190	So.	1.4	0.4	0.5	28.1	—	30.8
2	**F**	**Jackie Rogers**	**6-8/230**	**Sr.**	**Redshirt averaged 7 ppg, 4 rpg in '00-01.**					
32	F	Jeff Viggiano	6-6/205	Fr.	Gatorade's Connecticut player of year.					
11	G	Kyle Wilson	6-2/175	So.	3.9	1.3	1.8	35.7	83.3	38.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Shannon Crooks*	6-2/222	14.6	3.7	4.0	41.9	70.4	35.7
F	Willie Jenkins	6-6/200	3.0	2.2	0.7	29.5	85.0	22.5
G	Jameel Pugh	6-5/200	5.3	2.1	0.5	33.3	75.0	24.1
C	Kitwana Rhymer*	6-10/256	8.9	6.0	0.9	53.3	64.6	—
F	Eric Williams	6-8/243	5.7	4.7	1.0	45.5	78.1	38.8

Schedule

N25-27 Maui Invitational
D2 Central Conn. St.
D7 Boston College
D10 at Connecticut
D14 Florida International
D21 Lafayette
D23 Rider
D28 Marshall
J2 NC State
J5 at Fordham
J9 Columbia
J11 at Saint Joseph's
J15 Rhode Island
J18 Xavier
J22 at La Salle
J25 at G. Washington
J29 at Dayton
F2 Fordham
F5 at Tennessee
F8 at Temple
F12 Richmond
F16 at St. Bonaventure
F22 Duquesne
F26 Temple
M2 at Rhode Island
M5 St. Bonaventure
M8 Saint Joseph's

4. St. Bonaventure

National Rank 123

WHAT WE LIKE: Marques Green is an excellent long-range shooter, takes good care of the ball, distributes well and can hector even the most capable ballhandler. He joins senior Patricio Prato and sophomore Mike Gansey in a strong backcourt that screams "Bombs away!" nearly every possession. The Bonnies were tops nationally last year with 10.5 3-pointers made per game. Coach Jan van Breda Kolff wants his team to run, press and fire. Virginia transfer Maurice Young will be eligible after the first term and should bring excellent scoring to the three spot. The coaches hope 6-8 junior college import Jamil Terrell can provide needed rebounding and shot blocking from the center position.

WHAT SCARES US: The Bonnies are fun to watch but they need to take care of the basics a little better. They were outrebounded by 6.6 per game last year and let opponents shoot 51.1 percent from the field. It's great to force turnovers and shoot 3s, but the game is more than that. Although Terrell will help inside, he won't have much help around him, unless raw 6-8 freshman Calvin Brown can play more than a few minutes here and there.

X FACTOR: Ever since the early '90s, the Bonnies have had a player they could turn to for big production. Last year, it was J.R. Bremer. This season, it will have to be Green, and that could be asking a lot. At 5-7, 160, Green isn't built for big points. He must also handle the bulk of the ballhandling and floor leadership responsibilities. He could be helped by the arrival of 6-4 freshman Ahmad Smith, who will see some time at the point and could push Green to the off-guard position. Although van Breda Kolff's system allows for plenty of scoring by many players, the Bonnies need a lead dog. If Green can handle running the point and also be the team's leading scorer, he'll be one of the A-10's best.

Bonnies Data

Coach: Jan van Breda Kolff (17-13, 1 year; 191-141, 11 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Billy McCaffrey (1 year), Kort Wickenheiser (1), Mark Wade (1st).
2001-2002 record: 17-13. Atlantic 10 East: 8-8/3rd. Lost to Syracuse in NIT first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 102
Last league title: 1983 (tie, A-10 West).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Olean, N.Y.
Website: www.gobonnies.com
Home court: Reilly Center (6,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	C	Calvin Brown	6-8/255	Fr.	Will give team much-needed size inside.					
10	**F**	**Robert Cheeks***	**6-6/205**	**Sr.**	**4.6**	**4.3**	**0.3**	**62.2**	**66.7**	—
11	F	S. Dumbliauskas	6-8/225	So.	0.5	0.9	0.1	50.0	33.3	—
3	**G/F**	**Mike Gansey**	**6-4/205**	**So.**	**8.3**	**4.7**	**0.6**	**46.0**	**76.1**	**38.7**
4	**G**	**Marques Green***	**5-7/160**	**Jr.**	**15.4**	**3.2**	**5.9**	**41.4**	**85.8**	**39.9**
	F	Kenny Harris	6-9/180	So.	Non-scholarship player in his first year.					
24	G/F	P. Methot-Lottin	6-6/215	So.	2.9	1.4	0.4	42.2	30.8	28.9
35	G	Chris Moses	5-7/140	Jr.	Non-scholarship player in his first year.					
20	**G/F**	**Patricio Prato***	**6-5/205**	**Sr.**	**11.8**	**5.0**	**1.0**	**41.9**	**77.8**	**36.7**
5	G	Joe Shepherd	6-2/190	Sr.	1.7	1.0	0.4	31.7	78.6	15.0
	G	Ahmad Smith	6-4/185	Fr.	Versatile guard made *Wash. Post* first team.					
	F	Cortez Sutton	6-7/210	So.	Coffeyville JC transfer is long, lean, athletic.					
	F/C	**Jamil Terrell**	**6-8/230**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer didn't play H.S. basketball.**					
	F	Maurice Young	6-5/200	So.	UVa. transfer is available in mid-December.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	J.R. Bremer*	6-2/190	24.6	4.7	3.0	41.3	80.3	33.1
F	Vidal Massiah*	6-6/225	10.8	4.6	1.2	41.9	61.8	32.9

Schedule

N22 Virginia Tech*
N23 Michigan*
N30 Saint Louis
D4 at Boston College
D7 at Alabama
D10 at Davidson
D19 at Canisius
D21 Kent State
D28 Toledo
D31 at Ohio
J2 at Connecticut
J4 Rhode Island
J8 Saint Joseph's
J11 at Xavier
J16 at Fordham
J18 La Salle
J25 at Duquesne
J28 Cleveland State
F1 Temple
F5 at Rhode Island
F9 at Richmond
F16 Massachusetts
F20 Fordham
F23 at Saint Joseph's
F26 G. Washington
M1 at Temple
M5 at Massachusetts
M8 Dayton
*at St. Thomas, V.I.

5. Fordham

National Rank 153

WHAT WE LIKE: Michael Haynes can play just about anywhere, and if super-sized center Glenn Batemon can't curb his weight, Haynes may even end up in the middle this year. Batemon, when on the court, has shown a good touch around the basket and moves well for a man his size. Coach Bob Hill is counting on five freshmen—plus one junior college transfer (Ashanti Burke) who sat out last year—to provide proper fortifications. Toronto native Jermaine Anderson is the top point guard candidate, and 6-4 Aussie Drew Williamson is a solid wing with junior national team experience. Hill calls 6-8 Israeli Mushon Ya'akosi the "Jewish Rodman," thanks to his dirty-work tendencies and expects Burke to add an athletic presence at small forward. The best of the bunch, however, could be guard John Blackgrove, who can fill it.

WHAT SCARES US: Hill's scorched-earth philosophy of recruiting players who stick around for a year or two (if that long) has turned this once-proud program into a glorified junior college. Only three scholarship players return from last year. Fordham will again try to race foes to 90 and should meet with some success, since there is talent on the roster. But the long-term prognosis is shaky, particularly if Hill continues to live for the moment.

X FACTOR: Haynes has played in the shadows of his teammates for two seasons now and should step to the forefront this year. There's no question he has the talent to do it. Haynes is a strong ballhandler who can take people off the drive, either from the point or from the wing. He can rebound, post up and pass. The ball is in his hands, and he has the opportunity to become a marquee A-10 player. The Rams need that desperately, since the rest of their nine-man roster of scholarship talent is largely untested (six newcomers) or unreliable (Batemon).

Rams Data

Coach: Bob Hill (34-52, 3 years).
Assistant coaches: Mike Brown (3 years), Shay Berry (2), Cameron Hill (2).
2001-2002 record: 8-20. Atlantic 10 East: 4-12/T5th.

2001-2002 preseason rank: 93.
Last league title: 1994 (Patriot).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Bronx, N.Y.
Website: www.fordham.edu/athletics.
Home court: Rose Hill Gym (3,470).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
23	G	A. Acquaviva	6-4/190	Jr.	0.9	0.2	0.3	40.0	50.0	36.4
5	**G**	**Jermaine Anderson**	**6-2/180**	**Fr.**	**Toronto native one of top points in Canada.**					
55	**C**	**Glenn Batemon***	**6-11/360**	**So.**	**2.5**	**1.4**	**0.1**	**53.1**	**34.4**	**—**
12	G	John Blackgrove	6-2/180	Fr.	Could fight for a starting backcourt spot.					
15	G/F	Ashanti Burke	6-7/190	So.	Toronto native took JC route, then sat out '01-02.					
00	F	Ryan Carr	6-5/190	So.	0.5	0.0	0.0	33.3	—	—
22	G	Brandyn Cooper	6-0/180	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
1	**G/F**	**Michael Haynes***	**6-8/205**	**Jr.**	**9.4**	**2.7**	**2.5**	**36.6**	**57.5**	**31.0**
11	**G**	**M. Jarrell-Wright***	**6-5/190**	**Jr.**	**8.3**	**3.4**	**2.2**	**45.3**	**66.2**	**25.5**
21	F	Mani Messy	6-7/200	Fr.	Ottawa native's ahleticism is welcome.					
51	**F**	**Mushon Ya'akosi**	**6-8/220**	**Fr.**	**Comes to team from Israel.**					
3	G	Drew Williamson	6-4/200	Fr.	Led Australian junior national team to silver.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Steve Canal	6-6/236	4.1	4.2	0.8	48.2	53.8	33.3
C	Freeman-McKamey*	6-9/215	7.2	6.8	0.8	44.9	49.2	0.0
F	Teremun Johnson	6-6/205	8.3	6.2	1.5	43.4	47.2	21.7
F	Jeff McMillan	6-8/250	10.2	7.6	1.2	52.6	44.0	0.0
G	Smush Parker*	6-4/190	16.5	4.4	4.5	43.3	73.0	32.8
G	Adrian Walton	6-2/185	9.7	2.7	2.2	48.1	64.7	18.9

Schedule

N22	at William & Mary	D22	at Northwestern	J18	at Temple	F16	Duquesne
N26	Siena	D28	Fairfield	J22	at Saint Joseph's	F20	at St. Bonaventure
N30	at Northeastern	D31	Holy Cross	J26	Xavier	F23	Temple
D3	Manhattan	J2	Iona	J29	Rhode Island	M2	at Dayton
D7	St. John's	J5	Massachusetts	F2	at Massachusetts	M5	Richmond
D11	at Rutgers	J11	at Rhode Island	F9	Saint Joseph's	M8	at G. Washington
		J16	St. Bonaventure	F12	at La Salle		

6. Rhode Island

National Rank 196

WHAT WE LIKE: There's more here than last season, that's for sure. It begins with coach Jim Baron, whose track record at St. Bonaventure indicates he can build a winner. Now in his second season at Rhode Island, he has begun to lay a foundation. The freshman class is promising, thanks especially to 6-6 forward Terrence Mack, an interior banger, and sophomore guard Dawan Robinson, who sat out last year. Sophomore Dustin Hellenga is a potent long-range weapon, while skinny forward Lazare Adingono has scoring potential, provided his shot selection improves. Senior guard Brian Woodward still is looking to become the major contributor he was expected to become three years ago.

WHAT SCARES US: URI must find a way to improve on last year's horrific 38.1 percent field-goal "accuracy" and has to stop turning the ball over so much. The team's interior is woefully thin and needs some immediate contributions from freshmen Mack, Chris Holm and Jon Clark. Holm and Clark are both 6-10 but also quite raw. The backcourt needs stability, since Woodward and Hellenga are inconsistent. That puts a burden on Howard Smith, who must distribute the ball and create some order. There must also be a significant improvement defensively for a team that allowed opponents to shoot 44.7 percent from the field last year.

X FACTOR: Baron has always fostered an all-for-one attitude that eschews individual accolades in favor of team success. That approach has to work in Kingston, because the Rams don't have any standouts. If URI is to improve on last year's 8-20 disaster, it needs players who will accept their roles and then fill them every night. As the last vestiges of the Jerry DiGregorio mess dissipate, there is a greater chance of that occurring. Without such a team-first attitude, the Rams don't stand a chance.

Rams Data

Coach: Jim Baron (8-20, 1 year; 214-222 overall, 15 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Dan Theiss (1 year), Desmond Oliver (1), Ty Weeks (1).
2001-2002 record: 8-20. Atlantic 10 East: 4-12/T5th.

2001-2002 preseason rank: 200
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Kingston, R.I.
Website: www.gorhody.com
Home court: Thomas F. Ryan Center (7,571).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
13	**F**	**Lazare Adingono***	**6-6/195**	**Sr.**	**7.9**	**3.9**	**0.6**	**38.9**	**61.2**	**39.1**
44	**C**	**Jon Clark**	**6-10/220**	**Fr.**	**To see more minutes with Momplaisir out.**					
10	G	Bam Harmon	6-3/180	Fr.	Can shoot and play either guard spot.					
24	**G**	**Dustin Hellenga***	**6-4/210**	**So.**	**9.1**	**3.9**	**1.4**	**33.0**	**80.0**	**30.1**
54	C	Chris Holm	6-10/255	Fr.	Wide body. Logged 8.1 ppg for H.S. in Nevada.					
50	G	Jeff Kalapos	6-5/192	So.	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	50.0	—
1	F	Terrence Mack	6-6/230	Fr.	Adds much-needed strength inside.					
11	G	Steve Mello	6-1/178	Jr.	4.5	1.8	0.9	35.8	60.0	33.3
42	C	^Marcel Momplaisir*	6-7/200	So.	2.5	3.4	0.6	18.8	—	38.0
5	**G**	**Dawan Robinson**	**6-3/185**	**So.**	**Prop 48 can play either guard spot.**					
4	**G**	**Howard Smith***	**6-0/175**	**Sr.**	**4.7**	**3.8**	**2.0**	**33.6**	**75.0**	**27.3**
20	G	Brian Woodward	6-3/180	Sr.	8.9	3.4	1.2	38.9	71.9	18.6

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Dinno Daniels*	6-0/175	8.3	2.9	4.6	39.2	82.9	37.0
C	Marcus Evans	6-9/250	4.9	3.1	0.2	48.4	65.6	0.0
x	Troy Wiley	6-8/210	14.1	5.2	0.3	46.2	64.5	32.0

^Expected to sit out fall semester.

Schedule

D2	Central Conn. St.	D28	Marshall	J22	at La Salle	F16	at St. Bonaventure
D7	Boston College	J2	NC State	J25	at G. Washington	F22	Duquesne
D10	at Connecticut	J5	at Fordham	J29	at Dayton	F26	Temple
D14	Florida International	J9	Columbia	F2	Fordham	M2	at Rhode Island
D21	Lafayette	J11	at Saint Joseph's	F5	at Tennessee	M5	St. Bonaventure
D23	Rider	J15	Rhode Island	F8	at Temple	M8	Saint Joseph's
		J18	Xavier	F12	Richmond		

National Rank 5

1. Xavier

WHAT WE LIKE: Though the NBA wasn't completely sold on David West last spring, there is big respect for him—not to mention fear—in the Atlantic 10. West clearly is the alpha male among conference big men. The challenge for West is to remain a vital part of the Musketeers attack while still proving to pro scouts he can play facing the basket. Xavier needs West to do considerable damage inside, even if the double-teams keep coming. Life will be even better if junior swingman Romain Sato becomes a more reliable perimeter complement. Though his performance last season hardly was shabby, Sato must continue to improve off the dribble. Should he add a few breakdown moves to his outstanding perimeter shooting, he'll keep defenses from crowding West. There is nothing wrong with Sato's defense; he is one of the nation's best one-on-one defenders. Senior point guard Lionel Chalmers has a good mix of skills. He hit 3-pointers more successfully than ever last season and played solid defense. It will be interesting to see how Chalmers is used with freshman Dedrick Finn, a heralded point guard. Expect to see the two guards playing together at times, especially against smaller opponents. There are high hopes for sophomore Will Caudle and JC transfer Anthony Myles, two newcomers who are expected to give West help inside.

Schedule

N18-29	Preseason NIT
N24	Florida A&M
D3	Purdue
D7	at Cincinnati
D9	Miami of Ohio
D14	Mississippi State
D20	Ball State
D23	at Siena
D28	Eastern Kentucky
D31	Creighton
J4	at Alabama
J7	Richmond
J11	St. Bonaventure
J14	at La Salle
J18	at Massachusetts
J22	Duquesne
J26	at Fordham
F1	at Richmond
F5	at G. Washington
F8	Dayton
F15	Rhode Island
F19	La Salle
F22	at Dayton
D26	at Duquesne
M1	G. Washington
M5	at Saint Joseph's
M8	Temple

WHAT SCARES US: There isn't a lot to dislike about the Musketeers, but turnovers were a problem last season. Xavier committed 35 more turnovers than it had assists, and Chalmers (107 giveaways) was the primary culprit. The team must get better minutes from all of its perimeter players. Senior Dave Young and sophomore Keith Jackson were adequate last season, but they must be more productive to prevent teams from focusing on shutting down West or Sato. Much is expected of the Musketeers, and they must be prepared to play at a high level. But as Saint Joseph's showed last season, experienced teams don't always live up to expectations. The Musketeers, particularly West and Sato, must stay focused all season. Although Xavier has had a great deal of success during the last 15 years, it still isn't one of the nation's perennial powers. To take that step, the Musketeers must make the most of opportunities that allow them to achieve national success. This should be one of those seasons.

X FACTOR: Chalmers made significant improvement in almost every facet of his game last season, his first as a full-time starter. A similar growth spurt would serve Xavier well this season. Chalmers has become a strong 3-point shooter, and if he makes those attempts consistently, teams will be unable to run an extra defender at Sato when he starts to the hoop because Chalmers would be left free. Chalmers must become more aggressive with the ball; because forward Kevin Frey is gone, more shots will be available. If Chalmers becomes a strong third option on offense, Xavier will be difficult to stop.

AN ATLANTIC 10 COACH SAYS...

They played tough, guarded you tough and were efficient enough on offense. The thing that gave them the most trouble was zone. I've heard Romain Sato improved his shooting; he's going to be the key. David West is a given. Lionel Chalmers, at times, gets a little out of control, plays a little faster than he's comfortable. He's turnover-prone, and he's a streaky shooter. They have to manage all the hype and funnel that into playing hard.

Romain Sato

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Musketeers Data

Coach: Thad Matta (26-6, 1 year; 50-14 overall, 2 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Sean Miller (1 year), John Groce (1), Alan Major (1).
2001-2002 record: 26-6. Atlantic 10 West: 14-2/1st. Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA West second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 26.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Cincinnati.
Website: www.xavier.edu/athletics
Home court: Cintas Center (10,250).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
53	F	Ryan Caldwell	6-5/250	Sr.	0.8	1.0	0.0	25.0	100.0	0.0
52	**F/C**	**Will Caudle**	**6-9/240**	**So.**	**Sat out last year and added 25 pounds.**					
0	**G**	**Lionel Chalmers***	**6-0/180**	**Sr.**	**12.0**	**3.4**	**4.2**	**42.1**	**71.9**	**35.1**
33	F	Brandon Cole	6-7/220	Fr.	SICA South Conf. (Ill.) MVP his senior year.					
21	F	Anthony Coleman	6-10/215	So.	1.4	1.0	0.2	46.2	81.8	0.0
54	F	Tom Compton	6-11/225	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—
12	G	Dedrick Finn	6-1/190	Fr.	First-team All-State in Indiana.					
34	F/C	Randy Holbrook	6-10/230	Jr.	JC transfer not academically eligible for fall.					
25	G/F	Keith Jackson	6-5/215	So.	3.7	1.8	0.6	49.5	55.9	—
24	F	Anthony Myles	6-9/245	Jr.	Will provide toughness on the interior.					
10	**G/F**	**Romain Sato***	**6-5/205**	**Jr.**	**16.1**	**6.6**	**1.8**	**46.2**	**68.8**	**41.5**
11	F	Angelo Smith	6-8/220	Fr.	26 points in Indiana North-Star All-Star Game.					
30	**F**	**David West***	**6-9/240**	**Sr.**	**18.3**	**9.8**	**1.6**	**53.6**	**76.8**	**32.1**
13	**G/F**	**Dave Young***	**6-5/205**	**Sr.**	**8.0**	**3.6**	**1.2**	**39.7**	**69.9**	**28.4**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Alvin Brown	6-3/180	2.6	1.1	0.8	39.7	73.7	42.3
F	Kevin Frey*	6-8/235	8.5	5.7	1.3	37.5	71.6	25.9
G	Jaison Williams	6-3/190	2.2	0.9	0.9	44.9	70.6	40.7

2. Dayton

National Rank 54

WHAT WE LIKE: There is plenty here to challenge Xavier's supremacy in the West. It doesn't hurt that the A-10 tournament has moved to Dayton for this season and next. Four starters return to take advantage of the tourney's new location, led by junior guard Ramod Marshall, a deadly 3-point ace, and swingman Brooks Hall, who has the talent for a breakout year. Junior center/forward Keith Waleskowski is a strong rebounder who scored more capably late last year, and 6-11 junior Sean Finn made giant strides as the year went on; he could be a double-double man before he leaves Dayton. Senior forward Nate Green provides power inside off the bench, and a trio of perimeter newcomers—Logan White, Warren Williams and Marques Bennett—will provide depth and some bench scoring. This team can play defense, too.

WHAT SCARES US: David Morris wasn't a dominant point guard, but he did have a 3-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio and played sticky defense. Replacing him won't be easy. Marshall will try, but he's more of a wing shooter. Coach Oliver Purnell will give sophomore Mark Jones plenty of opportunities to win the job. That confidence will help, since Jones wasn't comfortable playing in short bursts behind Morris last year. If neither of those options works, Purnell could turn to White or Williams; both have plenty of potential. Even though the Flyers have plenty of weapons and great depth, they need a star. When Hall arrived on campus, he was expected to fill that role eventually. Now is his time.

X FACTOR: Early last season, Finn struggled to get comfortable in the rotation. Once March arrived, however, he became a new man. Finn is slowly becoming a interior threat, which should allow Waleskowski to see fewer double-teams and become more of a baseline weapon. Finn can become an imposing middle man.

Flyers Data

Coach: Oliver Purnell (131-110, 8 years; 232-185 overall, 14 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Ron Jirsa (3 years), Josh Postorino (1), Frank Smith (8).
2001-2002 record: 21-11. Atlantic 10 West: 10-6/3rd. Lost to Tennessee Tech in NIT first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 53.
Last league title: 2000 (A-10 West).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Dayton, Ohio.
Website: www.daytonflyers.com
Home court: University of Dayton Arena (13,266).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
22	G/F	Marques Bennett	6-5/195	Fr.	MVP of '02 Indiana North-South All-Star Game.					
44	C	James Cripe	6-10/230	Fr.	Played in 2002 Ohio-Ky. All-Star Game.					
54	**C**	**Sean Finn***	**6-11/245**	**Jr.**	**7.4**	**5.4**	**0.4**	**59.6**	**48.1**	**—**
5	F	Nate Green	6-6/245	Sr.	5.7	3.2	0.5	46.4	70.9	0.0
33	**G/F**	**Brooks Hall***	**6-6/210**	**Sr.**	**13.2**	**5.0**	**2.5**	**43.6**	**72.2**	**38.8**
42	F	Frank Iguodala	6-5/210	Jr.	Big brother of Arizona recruit Andre Iguodola.					
14	**G**	**Mark Jones**	**6-1/185**	**So.**	**3.9**	**1.8**	**1.7**	**36.4**	**72.1**	**28.3**
13	G	Greg Kohls	6-2/170	Jr.	0.7	0.1	0.1	27.3	66.7	60.0
3	**G**	**Ramod Marshall***	**6-2/180**	**Jr.**	**13.3**	**3.4**	**3.1**	**42.7**	**67.1**	**37.2**
32	G/F	Sammy Smith	6-5/200	Jr.	0.9	0.6	0.2	33.3	35.7	20.0
2	G/F	D.J. Stelly	6/4-200	Sr.	5.6	2.9	0.8	35.6	79.4	34.7
45	**C/F**	**Keith Waleskowski***	**6-9/240**	**Jr.**	**9.7**	**8.0**	**1.4**	**54.2**	**78.1**	**30.8**
15	G	Logan White	6-5/212	Fr.	Was third-team All-Ohio as a senior.					
11	G	Warren Williams	6-0/175	Fr.	Led DeMatha to No. 8 national ranking.					

Key losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Yuanta Holland	6-7/225	7.3	4.6	0.5	52.7	64.9	—
G	David Morris*	5-10/185	6.5	3.2	6.0	33.9	71.4	30.5

Schedule

N24 Delaware State
N27 Evansville
N30 Cincinnati
D4 at Miami of Ohio
D7 UNC Wilmington
D14 at Saint Louis
D17 Ball State
D20 at Old Dominion
D22 Villanova
D29 at Duke
J4 Marquette
J8 La Salle
J11 Duquesne
J15 Richmond
J18 at G. Washington
J26 at Temple
J29 Massachusetts
F2 at La Salle
F5 at Duquesne
F8 at Xavier
F12 George Washington
F15 Saint Joseph's
F19 at Richmond
F22 Xavier
F26 at Rhode Island
M2 Fordham
M8 at St. Bonaventure

3. Richmond

National Rank 91

WHAT WE LIKE: Even though coach John Beilein left for West Virginia, new boss Jerry Wainwright adheres to the same tenets as his predecessor: great defense and deliberate offensive patterns. He has plenty of weapons at his disposal, most notably senior guard Reggie Brown, who can create opportunities for himself but needs to improve his 3-point shooting. Mike Skrocki can drill the 3, as can junior Tony Dobbins, who will be playing for the fourth coach of his collegiate career. Senior Jeff Myers is a capable combo guard. Up front, the return of Eric Zwayer, who missed all but six games last season because of bone spurs in his foot, is huge. He's a strong interior scorer and capable rebounder. Keep an eye on physical wing Jamaal Scott. The 2000-01 Big West Freshman of the Year at Cal Poly-SLO can penetrate and hold his own on the boards.

WHAT SCARES US: The loss of dependable workhorse Scott Ungerer leaves a hole at point guard, and there is no guarantee Myers can fill it. That means little-used Jason Morton or freshman Will Holloman must do the job. Holloman seemed more interested in scoring than setting the table as a high school player. Richmond also must contend with greater expectations after it went 22-14 in its first season in the Atlantic 10.

X FACTOR: Before he had surgery on those spurs, Zwayer was having a good season. He now must find a spot in an offense that became 3-point crazy, not to mention hugely successful. All signs point to a successful return. Now fully healed, he has added 15 pounds and is playing pain free. The arrival of Kevin Steenberge, a true center, will help. Steenberge's presence allows Zwayer to play at power forward, as will Johnathan Collins, who won't score much but plays great defense. The Spiders can hit from outside, but Zwayer will give them needed balance and interior heft.

Spiders Data

Coach: Jerry Wainwright (1st year; 136-103 overall, 8 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Mike Winiecki (1st year), Ramon Williams (1st), Gary DeCesare (1st).
2001-2002 record: 22-14. Atlantic 10 West: 11-5/2nd. Lost to Syracuse in NIT quarterfinals.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 58.
Last league title: 2001 (Colonial).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Richmond, Va.
Website: www.richmondspiders.com
Home court: Robins Center (9,171).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	**G**	**Reggie Brown***	**6-4/185**	**Sr.**	**14.4**	**3.2**	**2.5**	**35.8**	**71.0**	**30.1**
32	F	Jermaine Bucknor	6-8/205	Fr.	Canadian native redshirted last season.					
33	**F/C**	**Johnathan Collins***	**6-9/200**	**Sr.**	**5.3**	**4.2**	**0.6**	**56.3**	**63.2**	**0.0**
1	G	Tony Dobbins	6-4/190	Jr.	9.9	5.5	1.1	39.9	69.2	22.6
21	G	Will Holloman	6-0/180	Fr.	Was Jacksonville (Fla.) Player of Year as So.					
5	F	Tim Mayes	6-6/200	Fr.	Swing player has a good outside touch.					
4	**G**	**Jeff Myers***	**6-1/190**	**Sr.**	**5.7**	**2.1**	**3.1**	**40.1**	**80.8**	**35.0**
24	G	Jason Morton	6-1/180	So.	1.2	0.3	0.2	27.6	62.5	10.0
25	C	Patrick O'Malley	6-8/220	So.	3.1	1.6	0.3	40.6	61.5	25.0
14	F	Jamaal Scott	6-5/215	So.	Big West Freshman of the Year in 2000-01.					
22	**F**	**Mike Skrocki***	**6-6/190**	**Jr.**	**12.9**	**3.6**	**2.2**	**37.5**	**80.9**	**32.5**
51	C	Kevin Steenberge	6-11/215	Fr.	Rebounding skills should get him minutes.					
55	**C**	**Eric Zwayer**	**6-9/250**	**Jr.**	**Redshirted last season due to injury.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Tim Faulconer	6-11/225	1.0	1.3	0.2	37.9	38.5	28.6
G	Scott Ungerer*	6-7/210	8.6	5.8	4.1	44.4	67.6	37.0

Schedule

N22 Radford
N27 at Hampton
N30 Charlotte
D4 UAB
D7 at VCU
D16-17 Stanford Invit.
D19 at Providence
D28-29 Spider Invit.
J4 Wake Forest
J7 at Xavier
J11 Temple
J15 at Dayton
J18 at Duquesne
J21 G. Washington
J26 at La Salle
J29 Duquesne
F1 Xavier
F9 St. Bonaventure
F12 at Massachusetts
F16 at G. Washington
F19 Dayton
F22 Rhode Island
M2 at Saint Joseph's
M5 at Fordham
M8 La Salle

4. La Salle

National Rank 161

WHAT WE LIKE: Mike Cleaves was amazing down the stretch last season, scoring like a veteran (though only a freshman) and facing every available challenge willingly. He will be a star this year. More proof of coach Billy Hahn's recruiting power comes in the form of 6-2 point guard Jermaine Thomas, the Maryland Player of the Year. Sounds like the Explorers are set at guard for a while. Senior Chukwunike (formerly Reggie) Okosa wants to go by his real first name this year. That's great, as long as he keeps grabbing nine or so boards a night and can improve as a scorer. Expect good things from long-range specialist Gary Neal, a 6-4 freshman. La Salle can't wait to unleash 6-8 wing forward Steven Smith, who sat out last year as a non-qualifier.

WHAT SCARES US: The departures of four-year starters Rasual Butler and Julian Blanks leave La Salle with precious little experience. Worse still is the program's continued deficiencies in the middle. Okosa and Smith will be strong presences at forward, but there is no one to handle the rough stuff inside. Joel Jean-Baptiste is a foul machine (one every 5.6 minutes) and has the mobility of a totem pole. The Explorers have fortified their backcourt and wings but need to concentrate heavily on the interior in their next recruiting forays.

X FACTOR: Smith was a late signee last summer who hadn't spent any time at the summer camps and was largely anonymous on the AAU circuit. That doesn't mean he can't play. Smith got stronger during his year away from the game and has the skills to become La Salle's next great player. Whether he shows those skills consistently this year is a question, since few players explode after sitting out a season. Be assured, however, that Smith eventually will be an excellent frontcourt complement to the kinetic Cleaves.

Explorers Data

Coach: Billy Hahn (15-17, 1 year; 57-62, 4 years).
Assistant coaches: Joe Lombardi (1 year), Roland Houston (3), John Gallagher (3).
2001-2002 record: 15-17. Atlantic 10 West: 6-10/4th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 124.
Last league title: 1990 (MAAC South).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Philadelphia.
Website: www.goexplorers.com
Home court: Tom Gola Arena (4,000).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
25	F/C	Joel Jean-Baptiste	6-9/270	Jr.	1.8	2.1	0.3	47.7	51.9	—
	F	David Bell	6-7/190	Fr.	Very versatile. Third-team all-city in Philly.					
20	F	John Clark	6-5/210	Sr.	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	50.0	0.0
10	**G**	**Mike Cleaves**	**5-10/175**	**So.**	**11.7**	**4.0**	**2.5**	**31.9**	**40.4**	**43.8**
21	F/C	Lewis Fadipe	6-10/215	Fr.	Has good shot-blocking, leaping ability.					
3	G	Jeff Farmer	6-5/195	So.	4.8	2.2	1.1	35.9	83.3	30.7
11	**G**	**Dwayne Jones***	**6-5/195**	**Sr.**	**3.0**	**1.4**	**0.4**	**34.5**	**73.0**	**26.5**
12	F	Dzaflo Larkai	6-8/215	Fr.	Redshirted last season with knee tendinitis.					
14	G	Gary Neal	6-4/175	Fr.	*Washington Post* all-metro pick.					
1	**F/C**	**Chukwunike Okosa***	**6-10/235**	**Sr.**	**11.3**	**8.2**	**0.3**	**45.1**	**58.1**	**13.3**
5	**G**	**Rasheed Quadri***	**6-3/180**	**Jr.**	**5.0**	**3.8**	**1.6**	**39.2**	**54.2**	**37.8**
23	G	Kurt Simmons	6-6/185	Jr.	0.4	0.5	0.1	60.0	—	0.0
30	F	Steve Smith	6-8/225	So.	Non-qualifier last season.					
2	**G**	**Jermaine Thomas**	**6-2/175**	**Fr.**	**A Maryland player of the year.**					
4	G	Matt Thornton	6-1/170	Jr.	Arcadia Col. transfer had knee surgery last year.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Rasual Butler*	6-7/205	20.9	8.8	1.4	43.4	85.5	36.1
G	Julian Blanks*	6-2/195	8.9	3.6	5.1	34.0	84.6	29.7

Schedule

N22	Delaware	D14	at Cincinnati	J14	Xavier	F12	Fordham
N26	Lafayette	D21	at USC	J18	at St. Bonaventure	F19	at Xavier
N30	Marist	D28	Cornell	J22	Massachusetts	F22	at G. Washington
D3	at James Madison	D30	Quinnipiac	J26	Richmond	F26	Saint Joseph's
D7	Villanova	J4	at Rutgers	F2	Dayton	M1	Duquesne
		J8	at Dayton	F5	at Temple	M5	at Rhode Island
		J11	G. Washington	F8	at Duquesne	M8	at Richmond

5. George Washington

National Rank 181

WHAT WE LIKE: It starts with Chris Monroe, who only seems to be entering his ninth season at G.W. The 6-3 senior guard is a potent scorer off the dribble and from long range. He rebounds like a man 5 inches taller and can defend three or four positions. Three other starters also return, most notably point man T.J. Thompson. If his shooting eye improves, he'll be one of the finer points in the league. Greg Collucci doesn't have to worry about his long-range accuracy; he's a great perimeter weapon. Forward Tamal Forchion is a strong inside-out player who should develop into a potent scorer in the years to come. Three newcomers ought to make impacts, led by Omar Williams, a versatile 6-9 forward who could use some heft on his 180-pound frame but has skills.

WHAT SCARES US: G.W. doesn't defend well or get to the backboards nearly often enough. It is imperative that newcomers Williams, 6-11 Alexander Kireev and 6-7 Nana "Pops" Mensah-Bonsu join holdovers Forchion and Monroe on the boards, or G.W. again will be easy prey for teams that are more aggressive on the interior. The Colonials also must fight the inconsistency that plagues young teams. If form holds, there will be five freshman and sophomores among the team's top eight players.

X FACTOR: Kireev has quite a burden. He must play big in the middle for a team that has only one other player taller than 6-7, and that man (Williams) is rail-thin. A native of Ukraine, Kireev played for Evangel Christian in Shreveport, La., where he averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds. Those aren't glowing numbers, particularly considering his size, but coach Karl Hobbs insists Kireev can rebound well, can hit the open jumper and is a good passer for a big man. If Kireev can stay on the floor for 25-30 minutes a game, G.W. will have something. If he struggles, it's back to small ball.

Colonials Data

Coach: Karl Hobbs (12-16, 1 year).
Assistant coaches: Kevin Broadus (1 year), Darrell Brooks (1), Steve Pikiell (1).
2001-2002 record: 12-16. Atlantic 10 West: 5-11/5th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 108.
Last league title: 1999 (A-10 West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Washington, D.C.
Website: www.gwsports.com
Home court: Charles E. Smith Center (5,000).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

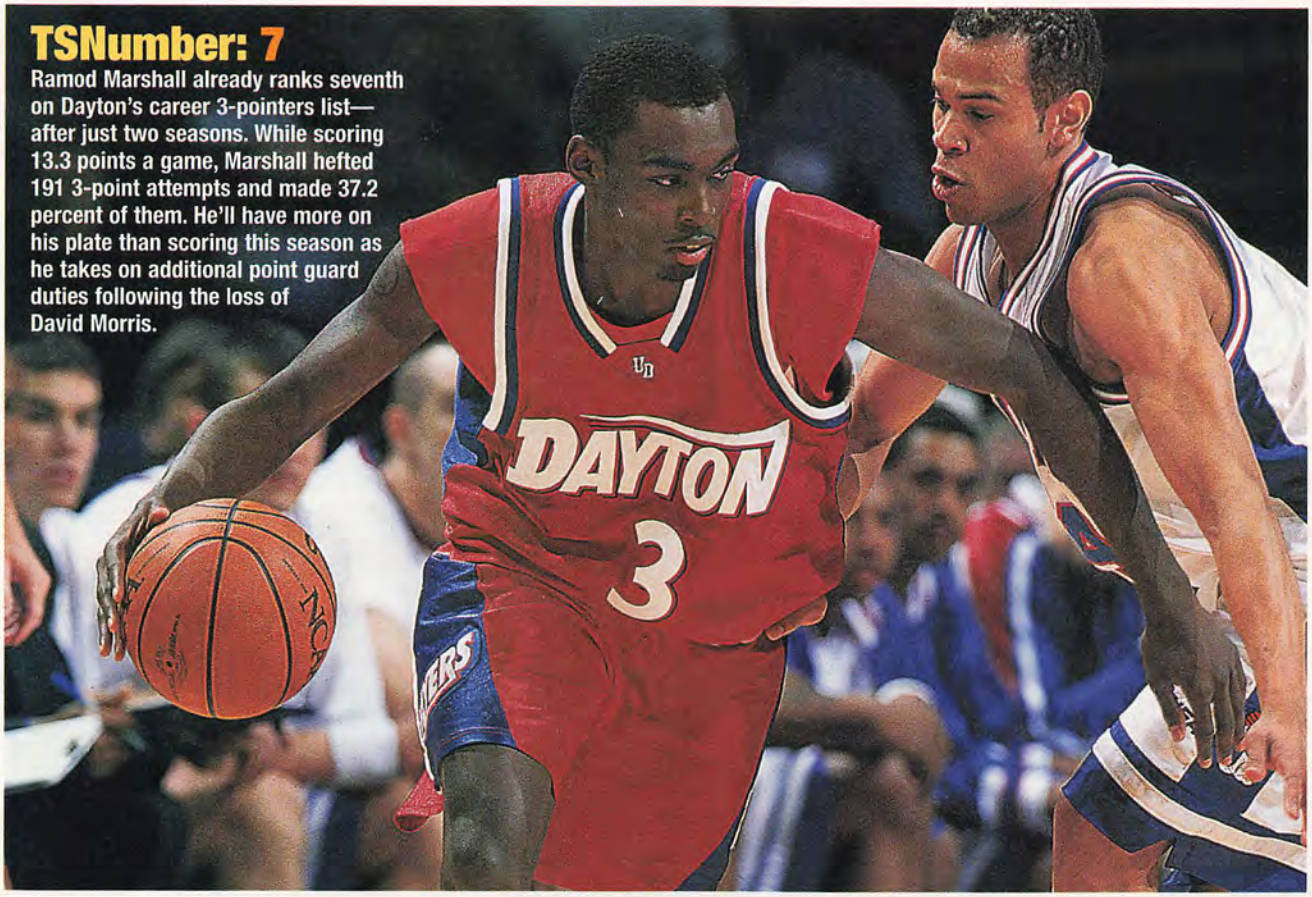
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
30	F	Marquin Chandler	6-6/197	Jr.	6.1	3.7	0.4	35.2	62.1	25.0
34	**G**	**Greg Collucci***	**6-3/172**	**Jr.**	**10.4**	**2.8**	**1.2**	**38.0**	**79.2**	**36.2**
25	G	Carl Elliott	6-3/210	Fr.	Standout WR, RB, sprinter from Brooklyn.					
44	**F**	**Tamal Forchion***	**6-6/240**	**So.**	**7.7**	**4.1**	**0.6**	**48.4**	**63.0**	**—**
3	F	Mike Hall	6-6/1801	Fr.	Versatile defender with good outside shoT.					
13	F	Alexander Kireev	6-11/240	Fr.	Can catch-and-shoot or pass from inside.					
21	F	N. Mensah-Bonsu	6-7/220	Fr.	Had knee surgery. Expected return: January.					
14	G	Darnell Miller	6-4/199	Jr.	4.3	4.0	3.9	38.1	81.1	0.0
4	**G**	**Chris Monroe***	**6-3/215**	**Sr.**	**21.1**	**6.1**	**2.4**	**43.7**	**76.3**	**36.9**
42	F	Darrio Scott	6-6/223	Sr.	3.1	2.0	0.2	37.2	50.0	16.7
5	**G**	**T.J. Thompson***	**5-11/177**	**So.**	**9.8**	**2.6**	**4.2**	**33.6**	**69.5**	**31.0**
1	**F**	**Omar Williams**	**6-9/180**	**Fr.**	Colonials say he can play four positions.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Jaason Smith*	6-8/187	9.5	7.8	0.7	46.4	67.6	—
C	Albert Roma	7-0/252	1.3	0.9	0.1	37.5	78.6	—

Schedule

N25	at Connecticut	D28	Old Dominion	J25	Massachusetts	F19	at Duquesne
N29-30	Auerbach Cl.	D30	at Binghamton	J29	Saint Joseph's	F22	La Salle
D3	at Florida Int'l	J2	at American	F1	Duquesne	F26	at St. Bonaventure
D7-8	BB+T Classic	J5	at Temple	F5	Xavier	M1	at Xavier
D11	at Boston U.	J11	at La Salle	F9	at Rhode Island	M8	Fordham
D22	at Towson	J18	Dayton	F12	at Dayton		
		J21	at Richmond	F16	Richmond		



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

TSNumber: 7

Ramod Marshall already ranks seventh on Dayton's career 3-pointers list—after just two seasons. While scoring 13.3 points a game, Marshall hefted 191 3-point attempts and made 37.2 percent of them. He'll have more on his plate than scoring this season as he takes on additional point guard duties following the loss of David Morris.

6. Duquesne

National rank 201

WHAT WE LIKE: During his year off, 6-8 Gonzaga transfer Jimmy Tricco established himself as the best shooter in the Dukes' program. His impact will be immediate. Tricco will play off-guard but can handle the point and small forward. He's part of a class of newcomers that will include at least two more starters and perhaps a third. Two JC forwards should help immediately: Ron Dokes will provide defense and rebounding, and Elijah Palmer is a slashing, get-to-the-basket type. Neither is a star, but both will contribute. Once Simplice Njoya's eligibility problems were cleared up last year, he became a presence in the middle. But he must improve his shooting accuracy and get stronger inside. Senior Kevin Forney is a solid shooter from the backcourt and a pretty good defender.

WHAT SCARES US: Forney can shoot fairly well but likely will be pressed into action at the point, which is not good news. He had 45 assists and 78 turnovers last season. If coach Danny Nee can find another option, he'd like to use Forney and Tricco on the wings. But to whom can he turn? Senior Brad Midgley is a capable reserve but really not a starter. Ditto sophomore Tyler Bluemling, who's inexperienced. It may come down to 6-3 freshman Bryant McAllister, the team's point of the future, if not now. Overall, the roster is still light on legitimate A-10 talent. Duquesne will be better, especially on the backboards and with its interior defense, but will need more scoring from its big men and better quality depth.

X FACTOR: Tricco didn't tear it up at Gonzaga, but when he got a chance to play more than a few minutes he displayed promise. Tricco scored 13 points in a game against Boise State in '00-01 and had 19 points in a two-game span the year before. He is a big, skilled wing with a good shot and great confidence. If he emerges as a scoring force, the Dukes will have a much-needed go-to player.

Dukes Data

Coach: Danny Nee (9-19, 1 year; 377-298 overall, 22 years; 1-7 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Charles Cunningham (1 year), Randy Roth (1), John Mahoney (1).
2001-2002 record: 9-19. Atlantic 10 West: 4-12/6th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 159.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1977.
Site: Pittsburgh.
Website: www.godukes.duq.edu.
Home court: A.J. Palumbo Center (6,200).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
31	C	Derek Ahern	6-11/260	Jr.	Adds needed bulk—if he can stay healthy.					
32	G	Tyler Bluemling	6-2/180	So.	3.4	0.9	0.8	36.8	73.1	31.1
42	F/C	Chris Clark	6-10/230	Sr.	2.1	2.1	0.4	31.7	60.0	0.0
13	G	Jeremy Conley	6-2/215	Sr.	2.5	0.5	0.0	55.6	—	0.0
41	**F/C**	**Ron Dokes**	**6-9/240**	**Jr.**	**Former Ball State signee can play the 4 or 5.**					
20	**G**	**Kevin Forney***	**6-4/190**	**Sr.**	**11.4**	**3.8**	**1.7**	**49.8**	**74.7**	**39.3**
22	G	Bryant McAllister	6-3/185	Fr.	Will see lots of time, if not start, at the point.					
21	G/F	Brad Midgley	6-5/210	Sr.	5.4	3.3	1.2	41.2	68.3	28.6
14	**C**	**Simplice Njoya***	**6-10/225**	**So.**	**9.2**	**5.9**	**1.2**	**41.9**	**73.9**	**36.4**
4	**F/G**	**Elijah Palmer**	**6-7/215**	**Jr.**	**Slasher needs to help replace Hunter, Smith.**					
33	F	Jon Pawlak	6-9/200	Jr.	4.8	2.6	0.3	38.3	83.9	39.0
1	G	Aly Samabaly	6-3/200	So.	2.5	1.9	1.1	31.4	33.3	28.1
3	G	Mike Spadafora	6-3/180	Fr.	Walk-on PG from Philly Catholic League.					
44	**G**	**Jimmy Tricco**	**6-8/200**	**Jr.**	**Made NCAA's Sweet 16 twice with Gonzaga.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jamal Hunter*	6-5/185	9.7	3.0	3.0	42.6	76.3	34.5
F	Aaron Lovelace*	6-5/210	7.7	6.3	1.3	41.6	64.4	50.0
F	Wayne Smith*	6-7/220	16.4	5.7	2.0	43.8	78.7	37.5

Schedule

N23	at Pittsburgh	D18	Youngstown State	J18	Richmond	F16	at Fordham
N25	West Virginia	D20-22	San Juan S.O.	J22	at Xavier	F19	G. Washington
N27	Cleveland State	D27-28	Fla. Inter. Tour.	J25	St. Bonaventure	F22	at Massachusetts
N30	at Maryland	D31	Maryland	J29	at Richmond	F26	Xavier
D2	at George Mason	J5	at Saint Joseph's	F1	at G. Washington	M1	at La Salle
D7	Mount St. Mary's	J8	Temple	F5	Dayton	M8	Rhode Island
		J11	at Dayton	F8	La Salle		

Rank 10

By Eric Prisbell, Fresno Bee

Western Athletic

Hawaii's success tapping the international pipeline has spawned nationwide attention. But coach Riley Wallace's methods of luring top foreign-born players, who by all accounts have strong character to match their skills, have irritated some Western Athletic Conference fans and programs.

In the WAC tournament final last year, Hawaii's coalition of players from seven different nations disposed of host Tulsa amid sarcastic chants of "USA! USA!" "I love that chant," Wallace said after the game. "It fires us up."

After the season, Wallace said he was interested in the Fresno State coaching vacancy and called Bulldogs athletic director Scott Johnson to inquire about it. Wallace's phone message was not returned and Johnson later said: "I have a great deal of respect for Riley, but I don't want a whole team of international players."

What is wrong with international players? Wallace says his foreign-born players usually are disciplined and academically inclined, not to mention sound fundamentally on the court. Wallace again has lassoed a fine group of recruits, including Lithuanian sharpshooter Vaidotas Peciukas and Slovanian Dane Dmitrovic.

Tulsa appears to be the team to beat, but Hawaii, which has the WAC's best player in Carl English, is not far behind.

The entire WAC, and especially Fresno State this season, had better beware. Johnson might come to regret he ever uttered those words.

ASCENDING: Louisiana Tech. A deep team strewn with athletic, slashing players is poised to slip into the NCAA Tournament any year now. Aside from Hawaii, the Bulldogs probably are the most difficult conference team to match up against because they have so many players from 6-4 to 6-8.

DESCENDING: Fresno State. The cupboard is not bare, but it's not exactly oozing with former McDonald's All-Americans

PREDICTIONS

1. Tulsa*
2. Hawaii*
3. Louisiana Tech
4. Fresno State
5. Nevada
6. SMU
7. Rice
8. UTEP
9. San Jose State
10. Boise State

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Dante Swanson, Tulsa	5-10	180	Sr.
G	Antonio Reed, Tulsa	5-10	170	Sr.
G/F	Carl English, Hawaii	6-5	205	Jr.
F	Kevin Johnson, Tulsa	6-8	222	Sr.
F	Antonio Meeking, La. Tech	6-8	245	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G/F	Quinton Ross, SMU	6-6	195	Sr.
F	Damon Jackson, Fresno State	6-4	195	Jr.
F	Kirk Snyder, Nevada	6-6	214	So.
F	Michael Harris, Rice	6-6	225	So.
F	Phil Martin, Hawaii	6-8	230	Jr.

Player of the Year

Carl English, Hawaii

Newcomer of the Year

Bryan Hopkins, G, SMU

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Dante Swanson, Tulsa
Best playmaker: Mark Campbell, Hawaii
Best dunker: Noel Felix, Fresno State
Best NBA prospect: Kirk Snyder, Nevada
Most likely to blossom: Patrick Simpson, SMU
Best rebounder: Michael Harris, Rice
Best defender: Dante Swanson, Tulsa
Best game coach: Riley Wallace, Hawaii
Most versatile: Carl English, Hawaii
Will take a charge: Travis DeMarby, Fresno St.

Hawaii's Riley Wallace

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. **Tulsa:** G Seneca Collins was a top five prospect in talent-laden Texas.
2. **Hawaii:** Foreign pipeline grows with arrival of next Predrag Savovic in G Vaidotas Peciukas.
3. **Louisiana Tech:** A class of slashers and athletes; three players could get minutes.
4. **SMU:** Mike Dement pries blue-chip PG Bryan Hopkins away from Texas.
5. **Fresno State:** Ray Lopes nabs quality players, including athletic JC G Rolando Todd.
6. **San Jose State:** Luring F Antonio Lawrence was surprise of WAC recruiting season.
7. **UTEP:** Quantity—seven newcomers—and quality, led by West Coast PG Keion Kindred.
8. **Nevada:** Landed a good wing, Marcelus Kemp, but could not solidify the frontcourt.
9. **Rice:** A proven scorer in Jamaal Moore and a robust big man in 7-footer Mike Kinsella.
10. **Boise State:** JC wing recruit Aaron Haynes will have the room to shine.

in the post-Jerry Tarkanian era. New coach Ray Lopes might rebuild the Bulldogs into a conference powerhouse, but it will take a few more stable recruiting classes and a plush new $100 million-plus arena—slated to open in late 2003—to help get it done. The non-conference schedule this season should be measured in calorie intake because it contains so many cupcakes, so don't be fooled by early success.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

1. Melvin Ely, Fresno State. Hiram Fuller takes over at center for Ely, Fresno's all-time leading scorer and a lottery selection in the NBA draft. Many scouts contended that Ely had the best post moves of any player in the nation last season, plus he was a shot-blocking presence in front of the basket.

2. Predrag Savovic, Hawaii. Peciukas has the shot to match that of his predecessor, and he has three seasons with Wallace to pick up the nuances of the game that Savovic knew so well. And Peciukas won't be expected to carry the team from the start.

3. Greg Harrington, Tulsa. Jason Parker will fill Harrington's slot in the lineup, a task easier said than done. Harrington meant everything to the Golden Hurricane and was easily the most complete guard in the conference. The point guard duties could actually be split between Parker and quicksilver guard Antonio Reed.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Travis DeManby, Fresno State. DeManby always wanted to appear on ESPN's *SportsCenter*. He got his wish last season when he recorded a school-record 11 steals against Oklahoma State. Fundamentally sound and deceptively quick, DeManby will be the Bulldogs' leader this season, and though he has yet to score big, his game should flourish under first-year coach Lopes, particularly since Ely and Chris Jefferies are gone.

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Quinton Ross	SMU	17.4
Terrance Green	Nevada	16.3
Garry Hill-Thomas	Nevada	15.6
Carl English	Hawaii	15.5
Kevin Johnson	Tulsa	14.5

Name	School	RPG
Michael Harris	Rice	8.6
Patrick Simpson	SMU	6.8
Antonio Meeking	Louisiana Tech	6.8
Charlie Davis	Tulsa	6.7
Haim Shimonovich	Hawaii	6.6

Name	School	APG
Mark Campbell	Hawaii	4.6
Lavelle Felton	Louisiana Tech	4.2
Antonio Reed	Tulsa	4.1
Travis DeManby	Fresno State	3.8
Haim Shimonovich	Hawaii	2.8

Name	School	FG%
Kevin Johnson	Tulsa	57.3
Michael Harris	Rice	56.2
Carl English	Hawaii	47.6
Garry Hill-Thomas	Nevada	46.8
Quinton Ross	SMU	42.0

Expanded standings

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Hawaii	15	3	27	6	16	1	11	5
Tulsa	15	3	27	7	13	3	14	4
Louisiana Tech	14	4	22	10	13	2	9	8
SMU	10	8	15	14	8	6	7	8
Nevada	9	9	17	13	10	4	7	9
Fresno State	9	9	19	15	12	5	7	10
Boise State	6	12	13	17	9	6	4	11
Rice	5	13	10	19	8	7	2	12
San Jose State	4	14	10	22	6	8	4	14
UTEP	3	15	10	22	9	7	1	15

Kevin Johnson

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Team stats

Total Offense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Tulsa	34	47.7	75.3	40.5	35.7	17.2	7.9	4.5	12.8	80.2
Nevada	30	42.3	67.6	32.5	40.0	10.7	7.3	3.1	15.3	73.7
Louisiana Tech	32	45.0	69.9	33.1	40.9	12.8	5.9	2.8	14.0	73.1
Fresno State	34	44.1	66.7	44.1	39.1	16.1	6.6	5.5	15.3	73.0
SMU	29	43.8	66.1	31.7	39.0	10.3	6.1	4.1	13.7	72.4
Hawaii	33	45.0	68.4	38.0	33.4	16.5	7.0	3.5	12.3	71.7
UTEP	32	44.8	72.1	31.1	33.9	14.9	6.2	3.4	15.8	69.2
Rice	29	41.9	70.4	34.3	37.4	11.9	5.8	4.0	16.8	65.8
Boise State	30	41.4	69.4	30.9	30.2	12.2	6.1	2.8	14.2	62.6
San Jose State	32	40.7	65.9	32.6	33.2	11.4	4.6	2.1	13.8	62.1

Total Defense

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Hawaii	33	40.8	65.9	33.0	34.7	10.9	5.2	2.8	14.9	63.1
Boise State	30	44.7	72.3	33.0	33.2	11.0	6.0	3.0	16.5	65.8
Louisiana Tech	32	40.8	65.7	35.0	32.2	11.8	6.3	2.9	12.3	67.3
San Jose State	32	46.4	69.4	38.3	31.7	13.6	6.8	2.8	12.5	68.6
Tulsa	34	43.0	68.1	34.7	34.4	13.3	6.8	3.6	15.2	69.5
Rice	29	40.9	71.2	34.9	35.3	13.8	7.9	4.6	13.1	70.1
Fresno State	34	40.1	65.6	32.0	39.7	14.9	7.6	2.8	14.6	70.3
SMU	29	42.3	66.4	36.1	36.3	15.8	6.9	3.3	15.8	71.1
Nevada	30	42.9	71.7	32.9	36.0	13.2	6.5	3.3	15.5	71.8
UTEP	32	43.0	67.7	34.9	36.1	12.7	7.0	3.1	14.5	72.0

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Mike Dement, SMU. The Mustangs never realized their potential during the Jeryl Sasser and Damon Hancock eras. Now, after landing Bryan Hopkins, the school's best recruit ever, the few fans who remain are expecting a return on the team's talent. For Dement to remain safe, SMU must make a charge for the postseason, although a run at the NCAA Tournament appears unlikely.

BEST BETS: NCAA investigators will stay away from Fresno State for at least one year. … Louisiana Tech will not sell out a game at its Thomas Assembly Center despite having one of the WAC's best teams. … Tulsa will steal the WAC Tournament title back from Hawaii. … Nevada's Kirk Snyder will be listed as a first-round pick on several mock NBA drafts. **TSN**

National Rank 21

1. Tulsa

WHAT WE LIKE: The Golden Hurricane was dangerous last year—just ask Marquette, which Tulsa defeated in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. This year, John Phillips' team is better. Four starters, 80 percent of the team's scoring and 90 percent of its rebounding are back. A dynamic duo in the backcourt returns in Antonio Reed and Dante Swanson. Reed is the quicker of the two, while Swanson is the conference's surest 3-point shooter, making 57 percent of his 3-pointers in WAC play last season. Junior guard Jason Parker is expected to take over a starting role but is not a lock to play point guard. He played nearly 20 minutes per game last year and proved to be an instant spark off the bench and a sound defender. With added confidence last season, Parker improved on his ability to get open looks. Add to the mix the best frontcourt player in the WAC in Kevin Johnson, the team's leading scorer last season who made 57.3 percent of his field goals, and it's not hard to see why Tulsa will be in the mix for a top 25 ranking and could make a Sweet 16 run in the NCAA Tournament. Johnson has a good vertical leap, which helped him rank second in the WAC in blocked shots. JT Ivie finally should get some time in the post after redshirting his first season then taking a medical redshirt last season.

Schedule

N22-23	South Padre Cl.
N30	at Arkansas
D4	Wichita State
D11	Kansas
D14	SW Missouri State
D19	Oral Roberts
D23	TCU
D28	Iowa
J1	at Fresno State
J4	Nevada
J11	at Rice
J16	at UTEP
J18	at Boise State
J23	Louisiana Tech
J25	SMU
J30	at San Jose State
F1	at Hawaii
F8	Rice
F10	at Louisiana Tech
F13	Boise State
F15	UTEP
F19	at SMU
F22	Bracket Buster
F27	Hawaii
M1	San Jose State
M5	Fresno State
M8	at Nevada

WHAT SCARES US: No Greg Harrington means no backbone. Former Fresno State coach Jerry Tarkanian was in love with the sound, savvy 3-point marksman who used to carve up WAC opponents. This team has few weaknesses, but finding a replacement for the all-conference talent is one blemish. Harrington, a 6-2 guard, was a three-year starter who galvanized the club in tough situations. Winning without Harrington, the school's all-time assist leader, will be an adjustment, but Tulsa is used to adjustments. After all, the Golden Hurricane had three coaches—Phillips, Buzz Peterson and Bill Self—in the previous three seasons. Expect Parker to get some minutes at the point, but the primary duties likely will go to Reed, a capable ballhandler who once last season dribbled the ball through a defender's legs en route to a layup. He escapes traps well and can break down defenders with relative ease. One of the quickest guards in the nation, Reed is talented but is more of a question mark than Harrington was. Another weakness is the lack of a natural, experienced center after Jack Ingram's spring transfer. It's a small blemish considering Johnson (6-8) and Charlie Davis (6-7) make up for height with tenacity.

X FACTOR: The recruiting class was the WAC's best and, depending how it plays, will be the difference between Tulsa contending in the conference and making the Sweet 16. Seneca Collins is a strong and quick wing player from Duncanville, Texas, who has a solid midrange game. Aliou Keita is a tireless worker who still is growing and already has a 7-3 wingspan. Anthony Price is a decent athlete who will provide a post presence. Some Tulsa insiders think Price may be the steal of the class. Many majors backed off amid speculation about his academics. Not Phillips, and it could pay off big time.

A WAC COACH SAYS...

Greg Harrington is a big loss for them. They'll miss his leadership and his savvy. He was a big guard; Antonio Reed is not as physical. They'll be playing with a couple little guys, but they're quick. I look for them to be a little more uptempo. From a size standpoint, the three (frontcourt) positions can be a matchup problem for them. They might struggle defensively, but offensively they can push it back at the taller guys and use their quickness.

Antonio Reed

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Golden Hurricane Data

Coach: John Phillips (27-7, 1 year; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Steve Cooper (1 year), Kwanza Johnson (1), Pooh Williamson (1).
2001-2002 record: 27-7. WAC: 15-3/T1st. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA East second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 70.
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Tulsa, Okla.
Website: www.tulsahurricane.com
Home court: Donald W. Reynolds Center (8,355).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Kyle Blankenship	6-0/175	So.	0.5	0.4	0.0	40.0	50.0	—
24	G	Seneca Collins	6-5/220	Fr.	Solid shooting should get him minutes.					
33	**F**	**Charlie Davis***	**6-7/232**	**Sr.**	**8.2**	**6.7**	**1.0**	**62.9**	**68.3**	**—**
11	G/F	Jarius Glenn	6-6/220	So.	4.7	2.1	0.9	44.9	65.4	23.5
45	C	JT Ivie	6-9/275	So.	Redshirted due to shoulder injury.					
34	**F**	**Kevin Johnson***	**6-8/222**	**Sr.**	**14.5**	**5.5**	**0.9**	**57.3**	**82.5**	**36.7**
44	C	Aliou Keita	6-8/260	Fr.	Senegal native went to H.S. in La.					
32	F	Marqus Ledoux	6-8/210	Sr.	4.4	2.3	0.4	37.2	67.4	30.6
5	G	Gianni Martins	5-10/170	Jr.	0.3	0.1	0.0	50.0	—	0.0
4	F	Trevor Meier	6-5/206	Fr.	Redshirt was all-conference twice in H.S.					
14	**G**	**Jason Parker**	**6-2/180**	**Jr.**	**8.6**	**2.0**	**2.1**	**44.5**	**59.4**	**39.7**
50	F	Anthony Price	6-8/235	Fr.	Good low-post player who is developing.					
3	**G**	**Antonio Reed***	**5-10/170**	**Sr.**	**11.1**	**3.0**	**4.1**	**38.9**	**73.9**	**41.2**
1	**G**	**Dante Swanson***	**5-10/180**	**Sr.**	**11.6**	**3.9**	**2.4**	**50.0**	**79.4**	**49.0**
2	G	Chris Wallace	6-2/185	Fr.	Solid defensive player and ballhandler.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Greg Harrington*	6-2/185	13.0	3.6	5.2	46.6	85.7	38.5
F/C	Jack Ingram	6-10/225	4.4	3.5	Transferred.			

2. Hawaii

National Rank 48

WHAT WE LIKE: Strong international flavor once again gives coach Riley Wallace's team a mysterious and dangerous presence. Everyone knows about Carl English, the junior Canadian who can play three positions and has a steely competitiveness and tireless work ethic. If Hawaii wants to reach the NCAA Tournament for the third straight season it will need sharpshooter Vaidotas Peciukas to live up to his hype. The Lithuania native who comes by way of junior college has three years of eligibility remaining. Associate head coach Bob Nash says Peciukas can shoot as well as departed star Predrag Savovic. Dane Dmitrovic, a four-year member of the Slovanian national team, should add depth to an already formidable frontcourt.

WHAT SCARES US: Losing three seniors: Savovic, Mike McIntyre and Mindaugas Burneika. That's close to 40 points per game gone, in addition to the loss of invaluable experience. Hawaii is dominant at home. A prime reason for its success over the past two seasons has been its emergence as a tough road foe. Travel to the mainland is brutal, and Wallace will have to rely on English, all-around talent Phil Martin and Haim Shimonovich to rescue the team in arduous road games. Always fundamentally sound, Hawaii also fights a "lack of athleticism" perception.

X FACTOR: Jason Carter will bring athleticism, toughness and a little swagger to the backcourt. He is the ideal complement for capable starter Mark Campbell, an assist-happy point who lacks a sure shooting touch. Carter will make up for that and then some. He has a 40-inch vertical jump. Fresno State coach Ray Lopes wanted him dearly but arrived too late. If Carter adjusts fairly well in his first season of Division I basketball, Hawaii will have the backcourt depth to challenge Tulsa for the conference crown.

Rainbow Warriors Data

Coach: Riley Wallace (243-204, 15 years; 258-231 overall, 17 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Bob Nash (21 years), Jackson Wheeler (12), Bob Burke (1st).
2001-2002 record: 27-6. WAC: 15-3/T1st. Lost to Xavier in NCAA West first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 82.
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Honolulu.
Website: www.uhathletics.hawaii.edu
Home court: Stan Sheriff Ctr. (10,300).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
54	F	Nkeruwem Akpan	6-8/240	So.	1.0	1.9	0.1	20.0	46.7	100.0
15	**G**	**Mark Campbell***	**6-4/180**	**Sr.**	**3.7**	**2.7**	**4.6**	**40.0**	**74.1**	**33.3**
	G	Jason Carter	5-10/155	Jr.	Athletic transfer from Barton County CC.					
	F	Dane Dmitrovic	6-10/205	Fr.	Comes to team from Slovenia.					
23	**G/F**	**Carl English***	**6-5/205**	**Jr.**	**15.5**	**5.1**	**3.3**	**47.6**	**64.3**	**39.9**
25	G	Ryne Holliday	6-0/170	Sr.	0.4	0.3	0.1	66.7	—	—
40	F	Paul Jesinskis	6-8/220	Sr.	1.3	1.2	0.3	40.9	50.0	28.6
	G	Michael Kuebler	6-5/185	Jr.	Transfer from Clackamas CC in Oregon.					
4	G	Gabe Lombard	5-9/155	So.	0.5	0.5	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0
2	**F**	**Phil Martin***	**6-8/230**	**Jr.**	**9.0**	**5.0**	**0.8**	**48.5**	**57.3**	**0.0**
	G	**Vaidotas Peciukas**	**6-6/200**	**So.**	**UH's 3rd Weatherford Col. recruit in 4 yrs.**					
32	F	Dan Pickart	6-7/215	So.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	—
14	**F/C**	**Haim Shimonovich***	**6-11/260**	**Jr.**	**7.1**	**6.6**	**2.8**	**49.7**	**61.7**	**0.0**
10	G	Lance Takaki	5-4/150	Sr.	0.4	0.3	0.1	33.3	50.0	0.0
12	F/C	Milos Zivanovic	6-11/220	Fr.	Yugoslavian is one of nine UH foreigners.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Predrag Savovic*	6-6/225	20.3	4.8	2.3	43.8	83.5	39.1
G	Mike McIntyre	6-3/205	10.0	1.9	1.3	41.9	72.5	38.2
F	M. Burneika	6-7/225	9.0	3.1	1.5	42.8	80.0	37.0

Schedule

N22-24 Tipoff Tour.	J2	at UTEP	J25	at Nevada	F19	Nevada
D9 Fresno State	J9	at Boise State	J30	Rice	F22	Bracket Buster
D14 at San Diego St.	J9	SMU	F1	Tulsa	F27	at Tulsa
D20-21 Hawaii Fest.	J11	Louisiana Tech	F6	at Louisiana Tech	M1	at Rice
D27-30 Rainbow Cl.	J18	at San Jose State	F8	at SMU	M6	Boise State
	J23	at Fresno State	F15	San Jose State	M8	UTEP

3. Louisiana Tech

National Rank 61

WHAT WE LIKE: The Bulldogs probably are the most athletic and deepest team in the conference. Coach Keith Richard's group plays a style of helter-skelter basketball that poses difficult matchup problems for opponents. Richard secured a fine crop of recruits who will fit right in with the team's slashing style of play. The focal point, however, will be forward Antonio Meeking, who is too big for guards to check and too quick for most big men to handle. Louisiana Tech will be stable at the point, where Lavelle Felton directs action. Felton played more minutes than every returning player. Fellow senior guard Michael Wilder also will log heavy minutes in the backcourt.

WHAT SCARES US: Last season the Bulldogs were a great running team but often got flustered in the halfcourt attack. Now that Gerrod Henderson has departed, that task becomes even more formidable. Henderson made more clutch shots last year than any other player in the conference. He was a fiery, vocal leader who nearly propelled the Bulldogs into the NCAA Tournament. No one can replace him, and pressure will be on newcomers Jeremy Johnston, an established scorer, and Eric Woods, who has a strong perimeter game, to compensate. Another problem is determining who is talented enough to guard the elite backcourt players in the conference.

X FACTOR: Throughout Louisiana Tech's first season in the WAC, players griped about lack of conference-wide media attention. They also didn't like to be referred to as "Tech." Remember, the Bulldogs even are cast in a shadow at their own school, where a certain women's basketball team reigns supreme. A team that rarely sells out will have plenty of motivation entering its sophomore season in the league.

Bulldogs Data

Coach: Keith Richard (79-39, 4 years).
Assistant coaches: Steve Forbes (3 years), Johnny Simmons (4), Kevin Caballero (3).
2001-2002 record: 22-10. WAC: 14-4/3rd. Lost to Villanova in NIT second round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 147.
Last league title: 1999 (Sun Belt).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Ruston, La.
Website: www.latechsports.com
Home court: Thomas Assembly Center (8,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
24	**G**	**Darrian Brown***	**6-5/205**	**Sr.**	**9.9**	**6.3**	**0.9**	**47.0**	**76.6**	**26.3**
23	G	Corey Dean	6-4/2-5	So.	Sat out season to work on academics.					
10	G	Bruce Edwards	6-2/180	So.	1.9	1.6	0.9	36.2	48.3	22.2
1	**G**	**Lavelle Felton***	**6-4/200**	**Sr.**	**7.0**	**4.2**	**4.2**	**40.7**	**67.9**	**34.9**
25	**F**	**Zach Johnson**	**6-10/245**	**Sr.**	**6.7**	**5.9**	**0.3**	**63.8**	**37.7**	**—**
13	F	Jeremy Johnston	6-8/230	Fr.	Louisiana 2nd-team all-state as H.S. senior.					
22	G	Brian Martin	6-/180	Jr.	Redshirted last season.					
34	**F**	**Antonio Meeking***	**6-8/245**	**Sr.**	**11.2**	**6.8**	**0.8**	**53.8**	**62.3**	**—**
4	F	Wayne Powell	6-9/245	So.	1.4	2.0	0.1	34.6	56.5	—
35	C	Joe Sykes	6-10/250	Jr.	2.0	3.0	0.0	25.0	66.7	—
33	F	Barry Thompson	6-7/220	Jr.	Named a top 10 JC small forward by TSN.					
14	**G**	**Michael Wilder**	**6-2/185**	**Sr.**	**7.8**	**1.4**	**1.5**	**42.3**	**73.5**	**33.0**
2	G	Eric Woods	6-4/195	Fr.	Louisiana 1st-team all-state as H.S. junior.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Marco Cole*	6-5/190	11.4	5.2	1.0	45.0	74.7	32.0
G	Gerrod Henderson*	6-4/208	17.3	5.1	3.5	37.8	82.2	36.4

Schedule

N19-29 Preseason NIT	D21	Jackson State	J23	at Tulsa	F13	at Fresno State
N24 Millsaps	D30	at Texas	J25	at Rice	F15	at Nevada
N30 at Jackson State	J4	SMU	J30	Boise State	F20	Rice
D7 at Mississippi St.	J9	at San Jose State	F1	UTEP	F22	Bracket Buster
D10 at Arkansas	J11	at Hawaii	F6	Hawaii	F27	at UTEP
D17 Harding	J16	Nevada	F8	San Jose State	M1	at Boise State
	J18	Fresno State	F10	Tulsa	M8	at SMU

4. Fresno State

National Rank 88

WHAT WE LIKE: Even the most ardent Bulldogs supporter would acknowledge there often was a lack of discipline under Jerry Tarkanian. Enter Ray Lopes, a no-nonsense, in-your-face coach who brings the toughness he inherited as an assistant at Oklahoma. He is blunt: Practices will be demanding, rules will be strict and penalties severe. The approach might be just what talented yet erratic senior forward Noel Felix needs. One of the most athletically gifted players in the conference, Felix's career has been tarnished by concentration lapses. Of the four seniors slated to return, Lopes sees Felix as the player with the most upside—an NBA talent in the making.

WHAT SCARES US: The Bulldogs lack an all-WAC-caliber player. Felix, Damon Jackson and Travis DeManby—his only other scholarship offer was Oregon Tech—have emerged as capable but far from spectacular players. Jackson is one of the finest pure shooters in the conference, but consistency remains an issue. Same story for the savvy DeManby. Center Hiram Fuller was highly coveted out of junior college—just ask Cincinnati coach Bob Huggins—but an absence of polished post moves plagued his junior season. No one can match what Melvin Ely gave Fresno State last season, which, in short, was everything.

X FACTOR: Is Rolando Todd as good as he says he is? The diminutive junior college combo guard made some waves this spring after he signed, calling himself the best college point guard in the nation and boasting he will be one year and done in Fresno. The coaching staff since has calmed his ego, but his bravado could come back to haunt him. Or, he could be the surprise player in the conference. With a depleted backcourt, Lopes needs Todd to play heavy minutes at both guard slots.

Bulldogs Data

Coach: Ray Lopes (1st year).
Assistant coaches: Bob Burton (1st year), David Fizdale (1st), Andy Newman (1st).
2001-2002 record: 19-15.
WAC: 9-9/T5th. Lost to Temple in NIT first round.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 25.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Fresno, Calif.
Website: www.gobulldogs.com
Home court: Selland Arena (10,220).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
55	C	Mustafa Al-Sayyad	6-9/225	Jr.	2.9	3.0	0.1	50.0	55.9	0.0
	F	Reggie Butler	6-6/190	Fr.	First-team all-conf. at Long Beach Poly.					
22	G	Travis DeManby*	6-4/220	Sr.	6.4	3.2	3.8	33.2	67.6	30.5
12	**F**	**Noel Felix***	**6-9/220**	**Sr.**	**7.9**	**5.1**	**0.5**	**49.6**	**52.5**	**30.4**
25	**F**	**Hiram Fuller**	**6-9/240**	**Sr.**	**5.2**	**5.6**	**0.3**	**44.4**	**56.1**	**10.0**
4	**F**	**Damon Jackson***	**6-4/195**	**Jr.**	**11.9**	**4.2**	**1.3**	**39.2**	**77.3**	**35.5**
	F	Renaldo Major	6-7/200	Jr.	JC teammate of Woods at South Plains Coll.					
	G	Terry Pettis	6-2/190	Fr.	Led H.S. to three Minnesota state titles.					
10	F	Phil Rasmussen	6-7/185	So.	0.9	1.6	0.3	20.0	—	23.5
5	**G**	**Chris Sandy**	**6-2/190**	**Sr.**	**9.9**	**3.3**	**5.8**	**39.5**	**74.0**	**35.73**
	G	**Rolando Todd**	**5-10/185**	**Jr.**	**JC transfer removed name from NBA draft.**					
	F	Jonathan Woods	6-7/215	Jr.	Good instincts should get him get minutes.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Melvin Ely*	6-10/256	23.3	9.1	1.8	56.3	73.5	0.0
F	Chris Jefferies*	6-8/216	17.3	6.4	3.0	41.8	63.4	34.7
G	Matt Mitchell	6-0/180	4.5	1.8	Transferred to junior college.			

Schedule

N29-30	McCaffrey Cl.	D20	Centenary	J16	at SMU	F13	Louisiana Tech
D4	Santa Clara	D23	at Washington St.	J18	at Louisiana Tech	F15	SMU
D7	at San Francisco	D30	Sacramento State	J23	Hawaii	F19	at San Jose State
D9	at Hawaii	J1	Tulsa	J25	San Jose State	F22	Bracket Buster
D11	Pacific	J4	Rice	F1	at Nevada	M1	Nevada
D15	at Oklahoma St.	J9	Boise State	F6	at UTEP	M5	at Tulsa
		J11	UTEP	F8	at Boise State	M8	at Rice

5. Nevada

National Rank 143

WHAT WE LIKE: Sophomore Kirk Snyder has NBA potential, but it is still to be realized. He burst on the conference scene midway though last season when he beat Fresno State with a 3-point buzzer beater. Not even Chris Jefferies, the conference's best defender, could contain him. What can he do for an encore? Snyder, who should get all-conference honors, is capable of leading Nevada to even higher peaks than those that surround Reno, Nev. This will be a backcourt-oriented club, with Terrance Green and Garry Hill-Thomas—two sound shooters—engineering the offense. The two combined for more than 30 points per game last season. Both also will contend for all-conference recognition.

WHAT SCARES US: Rebounding maven Corey Jackson didn't just gobble down boards last season, he provided an imposing presence that kept Nevada in games with frontcourt-heavy teams such as Fresno State and Tulsa. With Jackson gone, the Wolf Pack is especially thin in the frontcourt. Junior college transfer Dean Browne will be expected to provide an injection of toughness, though he may be too thin to bang with the WAC's big boys. No doubt Nevada is one of the fastest-rising teams in the conference, but it might be a couple sound recruiting classes away—assuming Snyder exhausts his college eligibility before trying the pros—from challenging Tulsa and Hawaii.

X FACTOR: Much fuss has been made of Reno's elevation—some 4,000 feet—and the effect it has on visiting players. Don't buy too much into it. The real reason Nevada has become a conference upstart is because of coach Trent Johnson, who weaves hot sideline intensity with cerebral coaching technique. This could be Johnson's most intriguing test: taking a talented backcourt, star player and thin frontcourt to the postseason.

Wolf Pack Data

Coach: Trent Johnson (36-51, 3 years).
Assistant coaches: Mark Fox (2 years), David Carter (3), Mike Brown (1st).
2001-2002 record: 17-13.
WAC: 9-9/T5th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 201.
Last league title: 1997 (tie, Big West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: Reno, Nev.
Website: www.nevadawolfpack.com
Home court: Lawlor Events Center (11,200).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
11	F	Dean Browne	6-9/215	Jr.	Bronx native went to Lassen CC in Calif.					
55	C	Jason Eversteyn	7-1/227	Jr.	1.9	0.6	0.1	33.3	75.0	—
22	G	John Giannoni III	5-11/175	Jr.	Transfer from Dixie State College.					
4	**G**	**Terrance Green***	**6-2/196**	**Sr.**	**16.3**	**4.0**	**2.5**	**38.4**	**77.2**	**34.1**
23	**G**	**Garry Hill-Thomas***	**6-3/197**	**Jr.**	**15.6**	**3.8**	**1.5**	**46.8**	**74.8**	**30.8**
5	G	Marcelus Kemp	6-3/200	Fr.	Sweet shooting should earn him minutes.					
45	F	Matt Ochs	6-9/232	Sr.	3.1	3.0	0.2	41.3	60.0	—
3	G	Todd Okeson	6-0/160	Jr.	JC transfer adds depth in the backcourt.					
42	**C**	**Sean Paul***	**6-9/230**	**Jr.**	**7.3**	**4.8**	**0.6**	**48.5**	**65.9**	**—**
13	G	Jerry Petty	5-11/155	Sr.	4.8	2.0	1.6	34.4	74.5	33.3
21	**F**	**Kevinn Pinkney**	**6-9/204**	**So.**	**3.2**	**3.1**	**0.2**	**44.1**	**61.5**	**0.0**
1	**F**	**Kirk Snyder***	**6-6/214**	**So.**	**13.7**	**4.6**	**1.4**	**37.7**	**62.5**	**29.7**
2	G	Seth Taylor	6-3/180	Fr.	Comes to team from Grapevine, Texas.					
44	C	Jair Veldhuis	6-10/240	Jr.	Villanova transfer is eligible in December.					
10	G	London Wilson	5-11/166	Sr.	0.9	0.9	0.8	25.0	62.5	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Andre Hazel	5-11/170	6.7	2.3	2.9	33.3	67.6	33.7
F	Corey Jackson*	6-7/230	9.6	11.1	0.5	55.0	51.1	0.0

Schedule

N23	at San Diego	D14	at Santa Clara	J16	at Louisiana Tech	F13	SMU
N26	at San Francisco	D19	Seattle Pacific	J18	at SMU	F15	Louisiana Tech
N30	at Weber State	D21	Portland	J23	San Jose State	F19	at Hawaii
D4	UNLV	D28	San Diego	J25	Hawaii	F22	at San Jose State
D7	Pacific	J2	at Rice	F1	Fresno State	M1	at Fresno State
D10	at Arizona State	J4	at Tulsa	F6	at Boise State	M5	Rice
		J9	UTEP	F8	at UTEP	M8	Tulsa
		J11	Boise State				

6. SMU

National Rank 149

WHAT WE LIKE: The Mustangs secured a much-needed recruiting coup when they landed Dallas native Bryan Hopkins, a top 20 national prospect by many estimates. Hopkins will fill the void left by point guard Damon Hancock, who could not lift SMU to the NCAA Tournament. Hopkins is 6-0 but plays like he is 6-4. Able to pry him away from Texas, SMU will benefit from his athletic, all-around game. He has drawn comparisons to Texas All-American candidate T.J. Ford and is so quick he can dominate games defensively. The leader of the team will be senior Quinton Ross, the primary scorer. Sophomore forward Patrick Simpson, who showed flashes of potential as a freshman, will be the go-to man down low.

WHAT SCARES US: The Mustangs have a sound foundation of talent beyond Ross, but the team is young. Along with Hopkins and Simpson is 6-11 Donatas Rackauskas, who opted for SMU over several premier schools. He will be needed to play defense at center, which could be a challenge considering his lack of strength. On offense, Rackauskas can score with an array of face-to-the-basket moves. Eric Castro and Brian Miller are expected to log significant minutes after having their 2001-02 season truncated by injury. Another sophomore to watch is Justin Isham, a 6-5 leaper who could electrify Dallas fans.

X FACTOR: In addition to being one of the WAC's top scorers, Ross perhaps is the conference's best rebounding guard. As he challenges for all-conference honors, Ross will be judged not only by his performance on the court but also by his leadership. He will need to galvanize a team of young talent—something SMU predecessors Jeryl Sasser and Hancock could not accomplish consistently.

Mustangs Data

Coach: Mike Dement (111-92, 7 years; 233-215 overall, 16 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Assistant coaches: Robert Lineburg (5 years), Coleman Crawford (1st), Robert Brickey (1st).

2001-2002 record: 15-14. WAC: 10-8/4th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 90.
Last league title: 1993 (SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Dallas.
Website: www.smumustangs.com
Home court: Moody Coliseum (8,998).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
23	G	Lavardicus Atkins	6-3/190	So.	Redshirted last season with knee injury.					
10	G	Duke Biggers	6-2/185	Fr.	Athletic walk-on will back up guard spots.					
21	**F/C**	**Eric Castro**	**6-8/250**	**So.**	**5.8**	**3.7**	**0.6**	**61.0**	**54.3**	**42.9**
32	F/C	Alex Craft	6-10/215	Fr.	A shot-blocking presence.					
20	G	Michael Dement	6-0/175	So.	0.7	0.4	0.0	33.3	75.0	0.0
11	**G**	**Bryan Hopkins**	**6-0/195**	**Fr.**	**One of most anticipated recruits in years.**					
22	G	Ryan Hopkins	6-2/170	Fr.	Member of 40-0 Dallas Lincoln squad.					
3	G	Justin Isham	6-5/198	So.	6.3	3.0	1.1	45.2	62.2	34.0
33	F	Jibran Kelley	6-8/225	Sr.	2.8	3.3	0.4	43.8	57.9	33.3
24	**G/F**	**Kris Lowe***	**6-6/208**	**Jr.**	**6.6**	**4.2**	**1.8**	**39.1**	**69.2**	**23.1**
5	G	Brian Miller	6-5/195	Fr.	Earned Texas all-state honors as H.S. Sr.					
25	F/C	D. Rackauskas	6-11/240	Fr.	Lithuanian attended New Hampton Prep.					
13	**G/F**	**Quinton Ross***	**6-6/195**	**Sr.**	**17.4**	**6.5**	**2.1**	**42.0**	**76.9**	**31.9**
1	**F**	**Patrick Simpson***	**6-9/210**	**So.**	**7.9**	**6.8**	**0.8**	**46.3**	**59.7**	**21.4**
50	C	Nigel Smith	6-10/275	Sr.	1.0	1.2	0.1	36.0	66.7	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Jon Forinash	6-11/270	1.6	2.3	0.1	50.0	50.0	—
G	Damon Hancock*	6-4/195	22.0	4.4	3.6	42.8	66.1	35.3
F	Mike Niemi*	6-9/270	3.7	2.6	0.3	48.1	64.4	37.5
F	Billy Pharis	6-8/230	1.3	0.9	0.2	37.9	38.5	28.6

Schedule

N24	TCU	D21	Baylor	J18	Nevada	F15	at Fresno State
N26	at Texas Tech	D28	Gardner-Webb*	J23	at Rice	F19	Tulsa
N29	North Texas	D29	at UNLV	J25	at Tulsa	F22	Rice
D4	at Oral Roberts	J2	San Diego	J30	UTEP	F27	at Boise State
D15	at Wake Forest	J4	at Louisiana Tech	F1	Boise State	M1	at UTEP
D17	at Appalachian St.	J9	at Hawaii	F6	San Jose State	M8	Louisiana Tech
		J11	at San Jose State	F8	Hawaii	*at Las Vegas, Nev.	
		J16	Fresno State	F13	at Nevada		

7. Rice

National Rank 178

WHAT WE LIKE: Not since Mike Wilks two years ago has Rice had a star-caliber player. Michael Harris is not quite a star, but he clearly will be a formidable challenge for any defender in the conference. At 6-6, Harris proved to be the most consistent WAC newcomer last season. His play is not flashy, only dependable. He also can hold his own on the boards against the conference's big men. Fellow sophomore Jason McKrieth started only 10 games last season, but he averaged 30 minutes per game. With McKrieth, Harris and senior Omar-Seli Mance, Rice returns its top three scorers from last season and could be a surprise team. In two years, the combo of Harris and McKrieth could make Rice a conference challenger.

WHAT SCARES US: Rice has had an athlete deficit in recent years, and this season will be no different. Give coach Willis Wilson credit for addressing the problem, though. He has targeted athletes during the recruiting season and was satisfied with finding a few. Jamaal Moore and J.R. Harrison are athletic, proven scorers who can contribute right away. Moore scored more than 1,500 points in his high school career and dropped in more than 43 points twice. Harrison is most effective close to the basket. But the two lack experience, much like Mike Kinsella, a 7-0, 250-pound newcomer who will be given time to develop at center.

X FACTOR: While Harris and McKrieth represent Rice's future, Mance and his senior experience will be the key to whether this team will challenge for the postseason or dwindle in the pack once again. Mance is not flashy but is capable of some breakout games. Consistency is an issue: He scored 2 points in three games last season while also tallying 20 or more four times.

Owls Data

Coach: Willis Wilson (127-155, 10 years).
Assistant coaches: Marty Gross (12 years), Todd Smith (13), Marty Gillespie (1).
2001-2002 record: 10-19.

WAC: 5-13/8th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 205.
Last league title: 1970 (Southwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1970.
Site: Houston.
Website: www.riceowls.com
Home court: Autry Court (5,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — ***Bold names: projected starter***

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	Shawn Collins	6-2/185	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
10	G	Arthur Culver	6-0/170	Fr.	Comes to team from Longview, Texas.					
42	F/C	Yamar Diene	6-9/230	Jr.	3.6	3.0	0.6	42.3	70.2	—
4	**C/F**	**Brandon Evans**	**6-9/250**	**Sr.**	**3.4**	**4.9**	**1.1**	**35.6**	**58.2**	**0.0**
1	G	Brock Gillespie	6-0/165	So.	5.7	1.0	0.8	36.2	81.1	39.3
33	**F**	**Michael Harris***	**6-6/225**	**So.**	**12.6**	**8.6**	**0.5**	**56.2**	**62.2**	**35.3**
14	F	J.R. Harrison	6-6/215	Fr.	Named Texas 3A Player of the Year.					
40	C	Mike Kinsella	7-0/250	Fr.	Should provide much-needed inside help.					
12	F	Christian Kollik	6-7/210	Jr.	3.8	1.2	0.3	32.2	69.2	34.1
0	**G**	**Omar-Seli Mance***	**6-2/190**	**Sr.**	**12.1**	**3.2**	**2.0**	**44.0**	**76.8**	**41.1**
34	**G**	**Jason McKrieth***	**6-4/210**	**So.**	**11.9**	**3.1**	**2.0**	**43.4**	**74.0**	**25.8**
24	G/F	Jamaal Moore	6-5/195	Fr.	Back-to-back Missouri 3A all-state honors.					
20	G	Alex Spotts	6-5/190	Fr.	Comes to team from Lexington, S.C.					
32	**G**	**Rashid Smith***	**6-3/175**	**Jr.**	**3.8**	**2.5**	**1.9**	**38.5**	**69.0**	**39.3**
11	G	Michael Walton	6-0/170	Sr.	1.0	0.6	1.1	33.3	40.0	22.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	T.J. McKenzie	6-11/255	5.3	3.2	0.5	46.0	62.3	—
C	Ferron Morgan	6-10/237	3.2	1.5	0.2	57.9	73.1	—
G/F	Nick Robison	6-6/210	2.6	1.6	0.7	25.5	80.0	22.2
G/F	Shawn Tyndell*	6-5/215	7.5	3.2	1.9	32.1	81.4	28.2

Schedule

N22	Tulane	D21	Colorado	J18	at UTEP	F20	at Louisiana Tech
N24	at Stanford	D23	at Navy	J23	SMU	F22	at SMU
N27	Houston	D30	Louisiana College	J25	Louisiana Tech	F27	San Jose State
N30	at BYU	J2	Nevada	J30	at Hawaii	M1	Hawaii
D7	Lamar	J4	at Fresno State	F1	at San Jose State	M5	at Nevada
D18	St. Edward's	J8	at Texas-Pan Am.	F8	at Tulsa	M8	Fresno State
		J11	Tulsa	F13	UTEP		
		J16	at Boise State	F15	Boise State		

8. UTEP

National Rank 187

WHAT WE LIKE: UTEP loses three starters and gains seven newcomers. That's a good thing. The Miners turned in an inept 2001-02 campaign, going 10-22. They return their second-leading scorer from last season, forward Roy Smallwood, who has been steady yet unspectacular during his three-year career. The responsibility will fall upon Smallwood to lead the team every game. Coach Jason Rabedeaux's team also should get a boost from heralded signee Keion Kindred, a point guard who averaged a near triple-double as a high school senior. Another California signee, guard Giovanni St. Amant, is highly regarded as well. He shot 56.5 percent from the floor as a high school senior.

WHAT SCARES US: Aside from Smallwood, the frontcourt is neither talented nor or experienced enough to match up with the big boys of the conference. Senior forward Justino Victoriano shot a team-high 58.6 percent from the floor and is an impact player when he stays in the game. He averaged 6.3 fouls per 40 minutes, which suggests, even as an upperclassman, he lacks the maturity to handle foul trouble. Antone Jarrell needs to polish his offensive skills. He showed some flashes of a scoring touch late in the season. The backcourt is inexperienced, with Luke Martin, who started six games last year, the only significant returnee.

X FACTORS: How will UTEP play away from the Don Haskins Center and in tight games? Last season, the Miners lost 10 games by 5 points or less. They also did not win a road game, going 0-12. Although it doesn't sell out when the team is struggling, the Don Haskins Center remains arguably the toughest site to play in a conference loaded with hostile environments. But if the Miners can't find success away from familiar confines, another sour season looms.

Miners Data

Coach: Jason Rabedeaux (46-46, 3 years).
Assistant coaches: Ryan Carr (3 years), Junsie Cotten (1), Bobby Champagne (1st).
2001-2002 record: 10-22.
WAC: 3-15/10th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 48.
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: El Paso, Texas.
Website: www.utepathletics.com
Home court: Don Haskins Center (12,222).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
44	G	Alex Anthis	6-3/195	Fr.	Redshirt played for Greece from 1996-2000.					
3	G	Brandon Clausen	6-6/195	So.	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	50.0	—
10	G	Chris Craig	6-1/180	Jr.	Transfer from Arizona Western College.					
21	F	Joe Devance	6-7/215	So.	1.0	0.5	0.0	50.0	75.0	0.0
32	F	Jason Hammock	6-6/205	So.	Texas native spent one season at Illinois St.					
15	**F**	**Antone Jarrell***	**6-6/205**	**Jr.**	**4.4**	**2.7**	**1.5**	**39.8**	**77.8**	**35.6**
1	**G**	**Keion Kindred**	**6-4/210**	**Fr.**	**Part of 3 Calif. state titles at Dominguez.**					
11	**G**	**Luke Martin**	**5-11/165**	**So.**	**2.9**	**0.9**	**1.6**	**35.7**	**81.5**	**20.0**
23	F	Darius Mattear	6-6/210	Jr.	JC transfer averaged 12.6 boards last year.					
5	**F**	**Roy Smallwood***	**6-6/210**	**Sr.**	**12.4**	**6.3**	**2.0**	**47.7**	**77.3**	**29.5**
4	G	Giovanni St. Amant	6-3/185	Fr.	Named top 10 player in SoCal by *LA Times*.					
40	F/C	John Tofi	6-8/240	Fr.	Earned Calif. first-team all-state honors.					
50	**F**	**Justino Victoriano**	**6-9/220**	**Sr.**	**8.7**	**5.4**	**0.6**	**58.6**	**46.3**	**100.0**

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Eugene Costello*	5-10/165	13.1	3.7	3.2	40.1	75.2	28.2
F	Nick Enzweiler*	6-6/220	6.6	2.9	1.6	44.8	76.0	35.5
G	Victor Luces	6-1/170	2.8	1.3	1.1	36.5	71.4	11.8
G	Chris Neal	6-2/175	7.5	1.3	1.7	42.8	77.9	35.2
F	Leonard Owens	6-6/190	4.4	3.0	2.6	40.8	61.9	30.8
C	Brian Stewart*	6-10/250	10.7	6.2	1.0	46.0	74.7	0.0

Schedule

N26	Alcorn State	D27-28	SunClassic	J25	Boise State	F18	Texas A&M-C.C.
N30	Texas Tech	J2	Hawaii	J30	at SMU	F22	at Boise State
D4	at Houston	J4	San Jose State	F1	at Louisiana Tech	F27	Louisiana Tech
D7	New Mexico State	J9	at Nevada	F6	Fresno State	M1	SMU
D18	at New Mexico St.	J11	at Fresno State	F8	Nevada	M6	at San Jose State
D21	Tennessee State	J16	Tulsa	F13	at Rice	M8	at Hawaii
		J18	Rice	F15	at Tulsa		

9. San Jose State

National Rank 193

WHAT WE LIKE: The late-spring nabbing of top 100 talent Antonio Lawrence raised eyebrows. Lawrence wanted to play for his local Fresno State team but overplayed his hand and was told by FSU coach Ray Lopes the Bulldogs had no more scholarships remaining. It could come back to haunt Fresno State because Lawrence likely will be given free reign to exhibit his athletic end-to-end game. Sure, he has a swagger that some believe borders on arrogance. But that should inject some spice into a team with only one other impact player. Brandon Hawkins will complement Lawrence and give the Spartans a one-two punch the Bay Area has not seen in quite some time.

WHAT SCARES US: The 6-3 Hawkins, who averaged 16 points per game, is the only double-figure scorer who returns. Phil Calvert, another 6-3 guard, is the only other returning starter, but he is limited. The onus will be on the recruiting class to compensate for a subpar frontcourt. JC big man Eric Walton can jump and block shots and should get plenty of playing time. Oliver Hill, a 6-9 native of New Zealand, has been hyped as perhaps the best player ever to hail from that country. His father, Stan Hill, played for San Jose State in the 1970s. Keith West, a New York native who has a 45-inch vertical leap, is an excellent shooter but gives the team more of what it already has: fairly talented guards.

X FACTOR: Coach Phil Johnson returns to the Spartans after spending two-plus seasons as a Chicago Bulls assistant. Under Johnson's direction, San Jose State should have more success than the Bulls have had in recent years—but that isn't saying much. Normally an offensively challenged squad, the Spartans are expected to increase their tempo. It could mean a middle-of-the-pack finish in the conference if they are fortunate.

Spartans Data

Coach: Phil Johnson (12-16, 1 year, in 1998-99).
Assistant coaches: Dennis Cutts (1st year), Eric Mitchell (1st), Tyson Aye (1st).
2001-2002 record: 10-22.
WAC: 4-14/9th.
2001-2002 preseason rank: 166.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: San Jose, Calif.
Website: www.sjsuspartans.com
Home court: The Event Center (5,000).

Roster — **2001-2002 starter* — *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	G	Moises Alvarez	6-2/180	Sr.	7.5	1.9	1.1	34.3	60.0	33.1
32	G	Phil Calvert*	6-3/212	Sr.	9.8	3.3	0.9	38.7	69.9	40.6
10	**G**	**Brandon Hawkins***	**6-3/191**	**Sr.**	**16.0**	**3.8**	**4.3**	**45.6**	**78.9**	**34.5**
	F	Oliver Hill	6-9	Fr.	New Zealendar played H.S. ball in Indiana.					
	F	**Antonio Lawrence**	**6-4/195**	**Fr.**	**Rated as Top 10 H.S. Jr. two seasons ago.**					
	F	**Brett Lilly**	**6-6/205**	**Jr.**	**Transfer from Indian Hills (Iowa) CC.**					
14	G	Bim Okunrinboye	6-0/189	Jr.	1.3	1.0	0.7	34.8	58.3	31.2
12	G	Scott Sonnenberg	5-11/173	Sr.	0.0	0.3	0.7	0.0	—	0.0
	F	**Eric Walton**	**6-8/230**	**Jr.**	**Transfer from Ventura (Calif.) CC.**					
	G	**Keith West**	**6-2/190**	**Jr.**	**Transfer from Ventura (Calif.) CC.**					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F/G	Gary Black	6-3/195	6.7	2.9	0.8	34.5	73.3	28.0
G	Ryan Davis	6-1/175	2.2	1.0	1.4	30.4	42.9	29.4
F	David Granucci*	6-9/216	4.5	4.5	1.5	54.9	46.4	—
F	James Jenkins	6-7/205	1.8	1.5	Died in spring hiking accident.			
C	Marion Thurmond*	6-8/276	11.6	7.4	0.8	47.9	66.1	—
F	Andre Valentine*	6-4/187	6.0	4.6	0.7	40.9	59.5	22.9

Schedule

N23	at Washington St.	D21	Pacific	J23	at Nevada	F19	Fresno State
N30	at Santa Clara	D28	Brown	J25	at Fresno State	F22	Nevada
D4	at St. Mary's	J2	at Boise State	J30	Tulsa	F27	at Rice
D7	CS Monterey Bay	J4	at UTEP	F1	Rice	M1	at Tulsa
D10	at CS Sacramento	J9	Louisiana Tech	F6	at SMU	M6	UTEP
D14	at CS Northridge	J11	SMU	F8	at Louisiana Tech	M8	Boise State
		J18	Hawaii	F15	at Hawaii		

JUSTIN KASE CONDER

TSNumber: 3

Kirk Snyder's rank in scoring for Nevada behind teammates Terrance Green and Garry Hill-Thomas. Snyder, only a freshman, kept up with them at a 13.7 points per game clip. With his rebounding and ability to come through in the clutch, it's little wonder coach Trent Johnson sees a future NBA player in Snyder.

TSNumber: 4.9

The points per game that Noel Felix's average increased from his sophomore season to last season with Fresno State. That increase (from 3.0 to 7.9) and a rebounding jump from 2.8 boards a game to 5.1 earned the power forward his team's vote for most improved player.

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

10. Boise State

National Rank 200

WHAT WE LIKE: The team likely will be built around the talents of shooting guard Booker Nabors, who has range well beyond the 3-point line and is the best shooter on the team. He has the ability to post up at 6-4 but loves to slash into the lane and should get plenty of opportunities in new coach Greg Graham's system—an uptempo offensive scheme. That's a big change for a team that enjoyed a reputation for grind-it-out defense. Boise State does not have much beside Nabors, but sophomore forward Jason Ellis is a bright spot. He is one of four returning players to start at least 16 games last season. Ellis also can contribute on the boards—he averaged 5.8 a game last season.

WHAT SCARES US: The Broncos are in a heap of trouble after losing potent shooter Abe Jackson and their two primary big men. And though Graham has that new uptempo system he brought with him from Oregon, the problem is—and it's a big one—the coach does not have the athletes to run and gun with. Graham likes athletic big men, but he inherited a short team—only two returnees stand taller than 6-7—and a team that likes to play defense but has trouble scoring. Wing player Bryan Defares is only 6-3 but has some quickness and tenacity. He also is a proven late-game player. The bench is very thin, which does not portend success for a team also lacking talent.

X FACTOR: The recruiting class might be better than expected. Two California prospects, Marc Pratt and Aaron Haynes, bring plenty of athleticism but lack Division I experience. Pratt has a vertical leap close to 40 inches, while Haynes averaged a near double-double at Sacramento City College. The sleeper could be Australian Larry Davidson, a 6-9 forward with a soft touch who is sure to get some playing time in his first season.

Broncos Data

Coach: Greg Graham (1st year).
Assistant coaches: Andy McClouskey (1st year), Tim Cleary (1st), Julious Coleman (1st).
2001-2002 record: 13-17.
WAC: 6-12/7th.

2001-2002 preseason rank: 161.
Last league title: 1994 (Big Sky).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Boise, Idaho.
Website: www.broncossports.com
Home court: BSU Pavilion (12,380).

Roster **2001-2002 starter* *Bold names: projected starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
10	**F**	**Larry Davidson**	**6-9/230**	**Fr.**	**Played in top Australian amateur league.**					
1	**G**	**Bryan Defares***	**6-3/210**	**Jr.**	**9.4**	**3.8**	**2.5**	**45.2**	**72.9**	**25.0**
13	G	Adam Donyes	5-7/170	Sr.	0.5	0.1	0.1	50.0	50.0	50.0
45	**F**	**Jason Ellis***	**6-7/220**	**So.**	**5.1**	**5.8**	**0.8**	**48.8**	**68.9**	**—**
21	F/G	S. Fraser-Dauphinee	6-7/210	Jr.	0.7	0.8	0.1	8.3	60.0	16.7
44	F	Kenney Gainous	6-8/205	Jr.	0.6	0.8	0.2	22.7	61.5	0.0
33	F	Robbie Gerichs	6-9/200	Sr.	1.2	0.8	0.2	37.0	80.0	10.0
15	F	Aaron Haynes	6-6/185	Jr.	Part of 2002 Calif. CC all-state team.					
20	**G**	**Booker Nabors***	**6-4/180**	**Jr.**	**11.4**	**3.1**	**2.6**	**39.4**	**77.1**	**30.2**
30	G	Cory Ortiz	6-4/215	Jr.	Junior college SG redshirted last season.					
	G	Marc Pratt	6-5/200	Fr.	Played at Calif. H.S. after time in England.					
4	G	Joe Skiffer	6-2/195	Jr.	1.3	1.0	2.5	42.9	28.6	0.0
3	**G**	**C.J. Williams***	**6-0/175**	**Sr.**	**4.7**	**1.8**	**2.5**	**38.8**	**63.5**	**29.6**
22	G	Solomon Wyatt	6-2/175	So.	1.6	1.1	0.7	75.0	36.0	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Abe Jackson*	6-7/230	18.6	4.8	1.1	38.5	81.9	32.7
F	Richard Morgan	6-8/240	6.1	2.5	1.1	43.0	45.2	31.8
C	Trever Tillman	6-11/260	4.7	2.8	0.3	44.6	69.6	33.3

Schedule

N18-29	Preseason NIT	D14	at Idaho	J16	Rice	F13	at Tulsa
N25	Idaho State	D18	Eastern Washington	J18	Tulsa	F15	at Rice
N30	Idaho	D21	Portland State	J25	at UTEP	F22	UTEP
D4	Albertson	D23	Weber State	J30	at Louisiana Tech	F27	SMU
D7	at Southern Utah	J2	San Jose State	F1	at SMU	M1	Louisiana Tech
D9	at Wyoming	J4	Hawaii	F6	Nevada	M6	at Hawaii
		J9	at Fresno State	F8	Fresno State	M8	at San Jose State
		J11	at Nevada				

Rank 11

By Steve Pivovar, Omaha World-Herald

Missouri Valley

PREDICTIONS

1. Creighton*
2. Southern Illinois*
3. Drake
4. Illinois State
5. Wichita State
6. Northern Iowa
7. SW Missouri State
8. Bradley
9. Indiana State
10. Evansville

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Luke McDonald, Drake	6-5	215	Jr.
G	Kent Williams, S. Illinois	6-2	180	Jr.
F	Kyle Korver, Creighton	6-7	210	Sr.
F	Jermaine Dearman, S. Illinois	6-8	220	Sr.
C	Baboucarr Bojang, Illinois St.	6-9	205	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Terrance McGee, SW Missouri	6-0	185	Sr.
G	Phillip Gilbert, Bradley	6-3	185	Jr.
F	Jamar Howard, Wichita State	6-5	184	So.
F	David Gruber, Northern Iowa	6-6	217	Jr.
F	Brody Deren, Creighton	6-8	245	Jr.

Player of the Year

Kyle Korver, Creighton

Newcomer of the Year

Trey Guidrey, G, Illinois State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Luke McDonald, Drake
Best playmaker: Terrance McGee, SW Missouri
Best dunker: Jermaine Dearman, S. Illinois
Best NBA prospect: Kyle Korver, Creighton
Most likely to blossom: Danny Granger, Bradley
Best rebounder: Jermaine Dearman, S. Illinois
Best defender: Jamar Howard, Wichita State
Best game coach: Dana Altman, Creighton
Most versatile: Kyle Korver, Creighton
Will take a charge: Marcus Howard, Indiana St.

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Southern Illinois*	14	4	28	8
Creighton**	14	4	23	9
Illinois State	12	6	17	14
SW Missouri State	11	7	17	15
Wichita State	9	9	15	15
Drake	9	9	14	15
Northern Iowa	8	10	14	15
Bradley	5	13	9	20
Evansville	4	14	7	21
Indiana State	4	14	6	22

*Lost to Connecticut in NCAA East third round.
**Lost to Illinois in NCAA Midwest second round.

1. Creighton

National Rank: 24

Outlook: The Bluejays' starting lineup returns intact, led by Valley Player of the Year F Kyle Korver. A model of versatility, Korver led the team in scoring, rebounding, assists and steals last season. Fs Brody Deren, a second-team all-conference pick, and Mike Lindeman join Korver in the frontcourt. Sophomore G Tyler McKinney took over at the point midway into last season and led the team to a 17-4 mark under his direction, and SG Larry House also provides plenty of experienced firepower. Top subs F Mike Grimes, C Joe Dabbert and versatile G DeAnthony Bowden give coach Dana Altman plenty of options to throw at opponents. What remains to be seen is how the Bluejays will adjust to the loss of G Terrell Taylor, who left school after a tumultuous season that ended on a high note with his virtuoso performance in an upset of Florida in the NCAA Tournament. Taylor was the team's most athletic player, but some off-court problems cut into his effectiveness. G Ismael Caro also left school, although he might have found playing time hard to come by with the arrival of Nathan Funk, a freshman who likely will see time at both the shooting guard and small forward spots. Junior college transfers Brandon Sims and Kellen Miliner should bolster the Bluejays' depth, which is unequaled in the Valley.

Key players: Brody Deren, F, 6-8/Jr. (5.1 rpg, 1.6 bpg, 52.9 FG%); Larry House, G, 6-4/Sr. (46.3 FG%); Kyle Korver, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.1 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 3.3 apg, 47.8 FG%, 42.9 3PT%, 89.0 FT%).
Top newcomers: Nathan Funk, G, 6-3/Fr.; Brandon Sims, G, 6-5/So. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Ismael Caro, G (78.1 FT%); Terrell Taylor, G (12.6 ppg, 41.2 FG%, 38.1 3PT%, 82.8 FT%).
Coach: Dana Altman (146-95, 8 years; 229-162 overall, 13 years; 2-5 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last time did not make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Omaha, Neb.
Home court: Omaha Civic Auditorium (9,377).
Website: www.gocreighton.com

A MISSOURI VALLEY COACH SAYS...

Creighton will be talented, but the departure of Terrell Taylor hurts. He was one of the few players who could get his own shot. Kyle Korver is one of the best players nobody knows about. Maybe athleticism is a weakness, but they'll be a better rebounding team with Brody Deren as a junior. We were very physical with them. If you're soft with those guys, they'll bust you in the mouth and won't ask if you're all right.

2. Southern Illinois

National Rank: 35

Outlook: Coming off a run to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 last season, coach Bruce Weber's most pressing concern is replacing C Rolan Roberts. The big man, in his only season in the Valley, gave the Salukis a dominant inside presence in a league that often lacks quality centers. JC transfer C Levy Jones did not qualify academically, leaving Cs Josh Warren and Stefan Jabkiewicz, who both redshirted last season, to fill the middle. Southern Illinois appears solid elsewhere, with all-Valley G Kent Williams headlining a group of seven returning lettermen. To make another championship run, the Salukis need enigmatic F Jermaine Dearman to play up to his talent and their defense must remain strong. SIU held opponents to 40.3 percent field-goal shooting last season, its best defensive performance since the 1967-68 season. Only four teams shot better than 45 percent against SIU last season, a marked improvement over the previous season, when 17 of 30 foes topped 45 percent. If the pieces come together just right, the Salukis could top their record for most wins in a season, a record they set last season with 28.
Key players: Jermaine Dearman, F, 6-8/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 47.8 FG%); Kent Williams, G, 6-2/Jr. (15.8 ppg, 3.0 apg, 43.2 FG%, 37.4 3PT%).
Top newcomers: Bryan Turner, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/JC); Tony Young, G, 6-1/Fr.
Key losses: Marcus Belcher, G (43.4 FG%); Rolan Roberts, C (13.8 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 2.4 bpg, 60.4 FG%).
Coach: Bruce Weber (79-47, 4 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last time did not make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Carbondale, Ill.
Home court: SIU Arena (10,000).
Website: www.siusalukis.com

3. Drake

National Rank: 71

Outlook: The Bulldogs' slow but steady rebuilding project appears ready to come to fruition. Seven lettermen return, and six started at least one game on a team that last season posted the school's best record since 1992-93. Conference scoring leader G Luke McDonald, who enters the season having made at least one 3 in 56 straight games, might have the sweetest shot in the league, and he begins his junior season on pace to break the school's career scoring record. The Bulldogs will get a boost with the return of F J.J. Sola, who averaged almost 12 points a game before missing the second half last season because of academic problems. F/C Greg Danielson and the guard duo of Lonnie Randolph and David Newman provide solid support. Coach Kurt Kanaskie also is banking on what he considers his most athletic recruiting class to make a quick contribution. Headlining the group are Gs Josh Robinson and Sean Tracy.
Key players: Greg Danielson, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 51.4 FG%, 35.7 3PT%); Luke McDonald, G, 6-5/Jr. (17.9 ppg, 46.0 FG%, 42.5 3PT%, 86.6 FT%); J.J. Sola, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 55.1 FG%, 37.5 3PT%).

Top newcomers: Josh Robinson, G, 6-3/Fr.; Sean Tracy, G, 6-4/Fr.
Key losses: Mike O'Neill, C (64.3 FG%); Andry Sola, F (13.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 45.0 FG%, 41.5 3PT%,).
Coach: Kurt Kanaskie (52-116, 6 years; 259-223 overall, 17 years).
Last league title: 1971.
Last NCAA appearance: 1971.
Site: Des Moines, Iowa.
Home court: Drake Knapp Center (7,002).
Website: www.drakebulldogs.org

4. Illinois State
National Rank: 108

Outlook: The Redbirds' stock took a dip when the NCAA denied star G Tarise Bryson a sixth season of eligibility. Bryson, who sat out his first season at ISU because of academics, had sought an additional season of eligibility after a wrist injury ended his 2001-02 season after one game. With Bryson gone, the team hopes NC State transfer G Trey Guidry will add flair to the offense. Like Bryson, Guidry can create his own shot and is a dangerous penetrator. Fs Baboucarr Bojang and Gregg Alexander emerged last season as players to watch—Bojang posted nine double-doubles, and Alexander gained a spot on the league's all-freshman team. With their interior depth suspect, the Redbirds need Bojang, who should be recovered from an offseason wrist injury, to play well.
Key players: Baboucarr Bojang, F, 6-9/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 46.6 FG%); Gregg Alexander, G/F, 6-4/So. (10.0 ppg, 44.1 F%, 39.2 3PT%, 75.7 FT%)
Top newcomers: Trey Guidry, G, 6-2/So. (transfer/NC State); Chris Burras, F, 6-5/Fr.
Key losses: Shedrick Ford, F (10.8 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 44.7 FG%, 77.8 FT%); Shawn Jeppson, G (12.8, 46.5 FG%, 41.0 3PT%, 87.3 FT%).
Coach: Tom Richardson (48-43, 3 years).
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Normal, Ill.
Home court: Redbird Arena (10,200).
Website: www.redbirds.org

5. Wichita State
National Rank: 147

Outlook: Coach Mark Turgeon's third Shockers team features some of the best young talent in the league. Streak-shooting G Randy Burns was the league's freshman of the year last season, and F Jamar Howard was the only freshman named to the league's all-defensive team. F Rob Kampman started every game but one and led the team in 3-point shooting. Idaho transfer F Bret Wise and C Paul Miller, who received a medical redshirt after breaking his foot, could ease the loss of Troy Mack and 1,000-point scorer Terrell Benton. Senior Craig Steven must step up at the point, where the Shockers lost C.C. McFall. With the Shockers' home base, Levitt Arena, undergoing renovation, Kansas Coliseum will be home court this season.
Key players: Randy Burns, G, 5-11/So. (12.1 ppg, 41.8 FG%, 42.2 3PT%, 82.4 FT%), Jamar Howard, F, 6-5/So. (10.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 52.8 FG%), Rob Kampman, F, 6-8/So. (4.3 rpg, 48.2 FG%, 47.5 3PT%, 78.1 FT%).
Top newcomers: Aaron Hogg, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/JC); Bret Wise, F, 6-7/So. (transfer/Idaho).
Key losses: Terrell Benton, G (10.5 ppg, 45.9 FG%, 41.2 3PT%, 79.5 FT%); Troy Mack, F (10.1 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 50.9 FG%); C.C. McFall, G (10.1 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 44.8 FG%, 40.7 3PT%, 77.4 FT%).
Coach: Mark Turgeon (24-34, 2 years).
Last league title: 1983.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Wichita, Kan.
Home court: Kansas Coliseum (9,600).
Website: www.goshockers.com

6. Northern Iowa
National Rank: 168

Outlook: Last season, first-year coach Greg McDermott took a group that was picked to finish 10th in almost every preseason poll and led them to a seventh-place finish. The surge included the team's first ever win over conference rival Bradley, and that seventh-place finish could have been better had Northern Iowa—which lacked depth and went with a six-man rotation in most games—not run out of gas down the stretch, losing seven of its last nine. Four of the six players McDermott used extensively last season were seniors, including leading scorer Robbie Sieverding and defensive specialist Erik Smith. Hard-working F David Gruber and slick-shooting G Chris Foster are returning starters, but senior F Blake Anderson, who averaged 2.3 points in 9.4 minutes, is the only other Panther with real game experience. Transfers Jon Godfread, a 6-10 center, and G Pete Schmit have a chance to make immediate contributions. If the rest of the newcomers adjust quickly, UNI could continue building on last season's unexpected success.
Key players: Chris Foster, G, 5-10/So. (12.6 ppg, 36.9 3PT%, 75.4 FT%); David Gruber, F, 6-6/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 61.0 FG%).
Top newcomers: Ben Jacobsen, G, 6-3/Fr.; Jon Godfread, C, 6-10/So. (transfer/Utah); Pete Schmit, G, 5-10/So. (transfer/Wisconsin).
Key losses: Robbie Sieverding, G (17.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 3.2 apg, 44.4 FG%, 86.2 FT%); Erik Smith, G (10.3 ppg, 38.0 3PT%).
Coach: Greg McDermott (14-15, 1 year; 145-79 overall, 8 years).
Last league title: 1982.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Cedar Falls, Iowa.
Home court: UNI-Dome (10,000).
Website: www.unipanthers.com

7. Southwest Missouri State
National Rank: 170

Outlook: The Bears lost four senior starters, including C Mike Wallace, the conference's leading rebounder, and steady F Scott Brakebill. G Robert Yanders and F Daniel Novak also departed, leaving coach Barry Hinson with some big holes to fill. Given the mood of the fans—attendance was down last season, and there was some discontent when the Bears struggled out of the gate—it doesn't appear time is on Hinson's side. He'll look to G Terrance McGee, the team's second-leading scorer last season, to provide points and leadership. McGee did lead the team in total points last season as well as assists and steals. Four junior college transfers—Gs Merrill Andrews and Phil Jones, swingman Tommy Johnson and F Emigijus Lukosius—must adjust to new surroundings quickly for the team to succeed. Andrews, Jones and Lukosius all averaged in the 20-point range for their respective junior colleges last season.
Key players: Monwell Randle, F, 6-7/Jr. (40.8 FG%, 75.0 FT%); Terrance McGee, G, 6-0/Sr. (14.2 ppg, 3.2 apg, 43.2 FG%, 41.9 3PT%, 75.0 FT%).
Top newcomers: Kellen Easley, G/F, 6-7/Fr.; Emigijus Lukosis, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Scott Brakebill, F (14.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 48.9 FG%, 37.8 3PT%, 83.3 FT%); Mike Wallace, C (13.0 ppg, 9.8 rpg, 53.2 FG%).
Coach: Barry Hinson (53-42, 3 years; 89-65 overall, 5 years).
Last league title: 1990 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Springfield, Mo.
Home court: Hammons Student Center (8,846).
Website: www.sports.smsu.edu

8. Bradley
National Rank: 172

Outlook: First-year coach Jim Les played on some of Bradley's top offensive teams, so it's a good bet he'll break with former coach Jim Molinari's focus on defense. That's good news for fans who grew weary of the grind-it-out style of play. With F Reggie Hall the only starter gone from last season's team, Les has inherited a solid nucleus, although the only senior in the lineup is JC transfer Michael Stewart. Freshman Danny Granger could be a dominant player inside if he figures a way to stay out of foul trouble. Also returning are Gs Phillip Gilbert, who earned second-team all-Valley honors last season, and James Gillingham, who was named to the league's all-defensive team. But Bradley has plenty of deficiencies to work on, particularly on offense. The team finished last in the league in scoring (60.9 points per game), field-goal shooting (its 38.8 percent mark was its lowest in five decades) and 3-point shooting (30.9 percent).
Key players: Phillip Gilbert, G, 6-3/Jr. (14.1 ppg, 76.6 FT%); James Gillingham, G, 6-4/Jr. (11.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 88.5 FT%); Danny Granger, F, 6-8/So. (11.1 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 44.6 FG%, 79.0 FT%).
Top newcomers: Jabbar Battle, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/JC); Stevan Marcetic, F, 6-9/Fr.
Key loss: Reggie Hall, F (48.1 FG%).
Coach: Jim Les (1st year).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Peoria, Ill.
Home court: Carver Arena (11,300).
Website: www.bubraves.com

9. Indiana State

National Rank: 183

Outlook: The Sycamores' fortunes took a dramatic turn for the worse last year as they suffered though a 6-22 season. With the departure of the team's two most athletic players, G Kelyn Block and C Djibril Kante, prospects for an immediate turnaround are shaky. Playmaking Gs Marcus Howard and Lamar Grimes and sharpshooting G Matt Broermann return to the starting lineup, but they lack the ability to carry the offense. The Sycamores will look to a group of newcomers, including junior college transfers Wilfred Antoine and Catrel Green, for help in avoiding their first back-to-back losing seasons since 1996-97. Some help in the post should come from senior Brian Giesen, who missed all of last season and the majority of the 2000-01 season with a knee injury.
Key players: Matt Broermann, G, 6-5/Sr. (40.0 FG%, 39.0 3PT%, 81.8 FT%); Marcus Howard, G, 6-3/Jr. (75.0 FT%); Lamar Grimes, G, 5-11/So. (43.1 FG%, 38.8 3PT%).
Top newcomers: Wilfred Antoine, G, 5-10/Jr. (transfer/JC); Catrel Green, F, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Kelyn Block, G (11.0 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 3.2 apg); Djibril Kante, C (10.0 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 51.1 FG%).
Coach: Royce Waltman (81-67, 5 years; 270-153 overall, 15 years; 5-3 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2000.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Terre Haute, Ind.
Home court: Hulman Center (10,200).
Website: www.indstate.edu/athletic

10. Evansville

National Rank: 186

Outlook: Replacing Jim Crews, who coached 17 seasons at Evansville before leaving to take over as Army's head coach, is Steve Merfeld, who directed Hampton University to two straight NCAA Tournament appearances. Merfeld's 2001 Hampton team upset second-seeded Iowa State in the first round. This Evansville team likely won't extend his tourney run. The Aces do have some talent—the team's top four scorers from last season return—but have deficiencies on the defensive end. Evansville was the Valley's worst defensive team, allowing an average of 76.6 points a game last season. C Dan Lytle is healthy again after being hindered by a knee injury the second half of last season. Lytle, G Ian Hanavan, F Tobias Brinkley and G/F Clint Cuffle can score, and Fs Larry Ferguson and Jordan Watson had their moments last season. The Aces' most pressing task is finding a replacement for playmaker Mark Allaria, the Valley's assists leader last season.
Key players: Tobias Brinkley, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 77.5 FT%); Ian Hanavan, G, 6-6/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 40.0 3PT%); Dan Lytle, C, 6-11/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 46.4 FG%).
Top newcomers: Nathan Koster, G, 5-11/Fr.; Deywane Lee, F/C, 6-8/Fr.
Key losses: Mark Allaria, G (4.0 rpg, 5.4 apg); Adam Seitz, F (43.0 FG%, 84.3 FT%)
Coach: Steve Merfeld (1st year; 90-57 overall, 5 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Evansville, Ind.
Home court: Roberts Stadium (12,300).
Website: www.gopurpleaces.com

Missouri Valley Schedules

Bradley

N22 Pepperdine
N25 at Loyola (Ill.)
N30 Chattanooga
D10 at Butler
D18 Central Michigan
D21 at IUPUI
D27-30 Rainbow Classic
J4 at SW Missouri St.
J8 Creighton
J11 at Evansville
J15 Drake
J18 Northern Iowa
J22 at Indiana State
J25 Wichita State
J29 at Southern Illinois
F1 at Illinois State
F5 Indiana State
F8 at Creighton
F12 Illinois State
F15 Southern Illinois
F19 at Northern Iowa
F22 SW Missouri St.
F25 at Wichita State
M1 Evansville
M3 at Drake

Creighton

N17-26 Guardians Cla.
D4 at Northern Iowa
D7 Brigham Young
D14 Tennessee Tech
D16 Delaware State
D21 at Nebraska
D29 SE Missouri State
D31 at Xavier
J5 Drake
J8 at Bradley
J11 at Illinois State
J15 Evansville
J18 Southern Illinois
J20 Illinois State
J23 at Evansville
J26 Texas Christian
J29 at Indiana State
F1 at Drake
F4 Northern Iowa
F8 Bradley
F12 SW Missouri State
F15 at Wichita State
F19 Indiana State
F22 Bracket Buster
F26 at SW Missouri St.
M1 at Southern Illinois
M3 Wichita State

Drake

N22 Florida Atlantic
N26 Iowa
N29 Hawaii-Hilo*
N30 Utah State*
D1 Vermont*
D4 at Northern Illinois
D8 at Central Michigan
D11 Grinnell
D14 Western Illinois
D22 at Iowa State
D29 at Denver
J2 at Southern Illinois
J5 at Creighton
J8 SW Missouri State
J12 Northern Iowa
J15 at Bradley
J18 Indiana State
J21 at Wichita State
J28 at SW Missouri St.
F1 Creighton
F6 Southern Illinois
F8 Evansville
F12 at Indiana State
F15 at Illinois State
F19 Wichita State
F22 at Evansville
F26 Illinois State
M1 at Northern Iowa
M3 Bradley
*at Hilo, Hawaii

Evansville

N22 Illinois-Chicago
N27 at Dayton
N30 at Eastern Illinois
D3 Western Kentucky
D7 Butler
D14 Murray State
D19 Austin Peay
D23 at Mississippi
D30 at Miami (Ohio)
J4 at Indiana State
J8 Southern Illinois
J11 Bradley
J15 at Creighton
J18 at SW Missouri St.
J23 Creighton
J25 Illinois State
J29 Wichita State
F1 at Northern Iowa
F3 SW Missouri State
F8 at Drake
F10 at Wichita State
F16 Northern Iowa
F19 at Illinois State
F22 Drake
F26 at Southern Illinois
M1 at Bradley
M3 Indiana State

Illinois State

N23 Utah State
N26 at Central Michigan
N30 Illinois-Chicago
D2 Chattanooga
D7 at Kent State
D15 at Western Kentucky
D18 Jacksonville
D21 Northern Illinois
D29 SW Missouri State
J4 at Southern Illinois
J7 at Northern Iowa
J11 Creighton
J15 at SW Missouri St.
J18 Wichita State
J20 at Creighton
J25 at Evansville
J29 Northern Iowa
F1 Bradley
F4 at Wichita State
F8 Indiana State
F12 at Bradley
F15 Drake
F19 Evansville
F22 Bracket Buster
F26 at Drake
M1 at Indiana State
M3 Southern Illinois

Indiana State

N22 Youngstown State
N26 at Valparaiso
N29-D1 Tulane Tour.
D5 Butler
D7 Eastern Illinois
D14 at Ball State
D19 at Murray State
D23 Illinois-Chicago
D30 Wyoming
J4 Evansville
J7 at Wichita State
J11 Southern Illinois
J16 at Northern Iowa
J18 at Drake
J22 Bradley
J25 at Southern Illinois
J29 Creighton
F1 SW Missouri State
F5 at Bradley
F8 at Illinois State
F12 Drake
F15 at SW Missouri St.
F19 at Creighton
F22 Wichita State
F26 Northern Iowa
M1 Illinois State
M3 at Evansville

Northern Iowa

N22 at Montana
N25 Wayne State
N30 at Siena
D4 Creighton
D10 at Iowa
D14 at Utah
D21 at Chicago State
D23 Wis.-Green Bay
D29 Iowa State
J4 at Wichita State
J7 Illinois State
J12 at Drake
J16 Indiana State
J18 at Bradley
J22 Southern Illinois
J25 SW Missouri State
J29 at Illinois State
F1 Evansville
F4 at Creighton
F8 Wichita State
F13 at Southern Illinois
F16 at Evansville
F19 Bradley
F22 Bracket Buster
F26 at Indiana State
M1 Drake
M3 at SW Missouri St.

Southern Illinois

N24 George Mason
N27 Colorado State
D3 Murray State
D7 at SE Missouri State
D14 at Illinois-Chicago
D18 at Charlotte
D22 Cal State Northridge
D28 at Saint Louis
J2 Drake
J4 Illinois State
J8 at Evansville
J11 at Indiana State
J15 Wichita State
J18 at Creighton
J22 at Northern Iowa
J25 Indiana State
J29 Bradley
F1 at Wichita State
F6 at Drake
F8 at SW Missouri St.
F13 Northern Iowa
F15 at Bradley
F19 SW Missouri State
F22 Bracket Buster
F26 Evansville
M1 Creighton
M3 at Illinois State

SW Missouri State

N22 North Texas
N26 at Saint Louis
N30 at Kent State
D6-7 Pizza Hut Classic
D14 Tulsa
D18 Arkansas State
D21 at SE Missouri St.
D29 at Illinois State
J4 Bradley
J8 at Drake
J11 at Wichita State
J15 Illinois State
J18 Evansville
J22 UMKC
J25 at Northern Iowa
J28 Drake
F1 at Indiana State
F3 at Evansville
F8 Southern Illinois
F12 at Creighton
F15 Indiana State
F19 at Southern Illinois
F22 at Bradley
F26 Creighton
M1 Wichita State
M3 Northern Iowa

Wichita State

N23 Texas-Arlington
N27 Chicago State
N30 at Oral Roberts
D4 at Tulsa
D7 Northwestern State
D14 Kansas State
D18 Lamar
D21 Oklahoma State
D30 Western Illinois
J4 Northern Iowa
J7 Indiana State
J11 SW Missouri State
J15 at Southern Illinois
J18 at Illinois State
J21 Drake
J25 at Bradley
J29 at Evansville
F1 Southern Illinois
F4 Illinois State
F8 at Northern Iowa
F10 Evansville
F15 Creighton
F19 at Drake
F22 at Indiana State
F25 Bradley
M1 at SW Missouri St.
M3 at Creighton

West Coast

PREDICTIONS

1. Gonzaga*
2. Pepperdine*
3. San Francisco
4. San Diego
5. Santa Clara
6. Saint Mary's
7. Loyola Marymount
8. Portland

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Kyle Bailey, Santa Clara	6-2	200	Jr.
G	Blake Stepp, Gonzaga	6-4	190	Jr.
F	Jimmy Miggins, Pepperdine	6-6	190	Sr.
F	Darrell Tucker, San Francisco	6-9	215	Sr.
F	Cory Violette, Gonzaga	6-8	250	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Terrance Johnson, Pepperdine	6-5	185	So.
G	Casey Frandsen, Portland	6-3	170	Jr.
F	Jason Blair, San Diego	6-7	235	Sr.
F	Zach Gourde, Gonzaga	6-8	249	Sr.
C	Boomer Brazzle, Pepperdine	6-6	210	Sr.

Player of the Year

Cory Violette, Gonzaga

Newcomer of the Year

Richard Fox, C, Gonzaga

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Blake Stepp, Gonzaga
Best playmaker: Devin Montgomery, Pepperdine
Best dunker: Jimmy Miggins, Pepperdine
Best NBA prospect: Cory Violette, Gonzaga
Most likely to blossom: Ronny Turiaf, Gonzaga
Best rebounder: Cory Violette, Gonzaga
Best defender: Chase Poole, St. Mary's
Best game coach: Dick Davey, Santa Clara
Most versatile: Boomer Brazzle, Pepperdine
Will take a charge: Matt Delzell, San Diego

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Gonzaga*	13	1	29	3
Pepperdine**	13	1	22	9
San Francisco	8	6	13	15
Santa Clara	8	6	13	15
San Diego	7	7	16	13
St. Mary's (Calif.)	3	11	9	20
Loyola Marymount	2	12	9	20
Portland	2	12	6	24

*Lost to Wyoming in NCAA West first round.
**Lost to Wake Forest in NCAA Midwest first round.

1. Gonzaga, National Rank: 13

The large dose of disrespect from the NCAA seeding committee was followed by the bitter pill of a first-round loss to Wyoming last March. Having taken their medicine, the Bulldogs can be expected to come back strong and restore the image of one of the healthiest programs in the nation. Zags teams of the past four years, including the three that went to the Sweet 16 or beyond, were guard oriented. Dan Dickau will be sorely missed, even with a healthy and highly capable Blake Stepp taking over the point. Anything that might be lost in the backcourt figures to be more than compensated for by a big, beefy and skilled front line. It starts with PF Cory Violette, who went from backing up Casey Calvary as a freshman to one of the top scorers and most devastating rebounders in the league last season. The frontcourt includes Zach Gourde, who has all the wiles that come with three years of experience. There's also 6-9 F Ronny Turiaf, a blue-chip recruit from the West Indies who fared well as a freshman, and Colorado transfer C Richard Fox, who might be a star.

Key players: Zach Gourde, F, 6-8/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 53.5 FG%); Blake Stepp, G, 6-4/Jr. (3.9 apg, 35.6 3PT%); Cory Violette, F, 6-8/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 76.6 FT%).
Top newcomer: Richard Fox, C, 6-11/Jr. (transfer/Colorado).
Key losses: Dan Dickau, G (21.0 ppg, 4.7 apg, 46 3PT%, 86 FT%); Alex Henandez, G/F (48 FG%).
Coach: Mark Few (81-20, 3 years; 4-3 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last time did not make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Spokane, Wash. **Home court:** The Kennel (4,000). **Website:** www.gozags.com

A WCC COACH SAYS...

Ronny Turiaf is going to be a key for Gonzaga—his rebounding, his on-court presence. When he comes in, he brings energy. I saw this summer he worked on his outside game. They'll have like seven inside guys. We'll see how the guard play is. How Blake Stepp handles the point is going to be big-time. Dan Dickau took a lot of pressure off them. We tried to keep the ball out of Dickau's hands and tried to force it on Stepp.

2. Pepperdine, National Rank: 44

In both style and substance, coach Paul Westphal was a first-year hit in Malibu. His NBA background and professional coaching style gained acceptance from returnees and newcomers. The Waves played their customary uptempo game with a mixed defense, capturing 22 wins. And all the key players are back. The backcourt has one of the league's top three returning assist men in PG Devin Montgomery and one of the top scorers in Terrance Johnson. They both ranked among the conference's top 3-point shooters with Montgomery hitting 48.8 percent in league play. Up front, Jimmy Miggins is back for a second season with the speed and leaping ability to make him a league MVP candidate. He has versatile Boomer Brazzle and powerful Glen McGowan alongside him. And don't be surprised if sophomore G Alex Acker, who redshirted last season, gets extensive playing time.

Key players: Boomer Brazzle, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 47.5 FG%, 77.4 FT%); Terrance Johnson, G, 6-5/So. (12.8 ppg, 44.1 FG%); Jimmy Miggins, F, 6-6/Sr. (14.9 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 48.1 FG%, 75.9 FT%).
Top newcomers: Alex Acker, G, 6-5/So.; Derrick Grubb, C, 6-10/Fr.
Key losses: Craig Lewis, G; Cedric Suitt, C (5 rpg, 47.5 FG%).
Coach: Paul Westphal (22-9, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last time did not make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Malibu, Calif.
Home court: Firestone Fieldhouse (3,104).
Website: www.pepperdine.edu/athletics

3. San Francisco, National Rank: 117

Injuries and inconsistency have kept the Dons from living up to their promise on paper and getting into the mix with Gonzaga and Pepperdine. The potential remains but whether it will be reached remains to be seen. Darrell Tucker is a load for the league to handle, as evidenced by All-WCC honors in two of his first three seasons. But the better teams know how to keep him from dominating, and he sometimes plays to the level of lesser opponents. Tucker will be working with a new batch of frontcourt teammates, and two of the most promising among them, transfers James Bayless and Alvin Broussard, won't become eligible until the end of the fall semester. While the frontcourt sorts itself out, the backcourt appears capable of carrying the load with returnees Shamell Stallworth, John Cox and Jason Gaines, plus transfer Jovan Harris, an all-West Coast Conference selection two years ago at Saint Mary's.

Key players: Darrell Tucker, F, 6-9/Sr. (18.9 ppg, 10.1 rpg, 46.6 FG%, 38.4 3PT%, 77.6 FT%); John Cox, G, 6-4/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 41.5 FG%, 41.9 3PT%, 78.4 FT%).
Top newcomers: Jovan Harris, G, 6-3/Jr.; Alvin Broussard, F, 6-6/So.
Key losses: Hondre Brewer, C, (2.8 bpg, 51.9 FG%); Tayo Akinsete, F, (42.8 FG%).
Coach: Philip Mathews (107-85, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1981.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: San Francisco.
Home court: War Memorial Gymnasium (5,300).
Home court: www.usfdons.com

4. San Diego, National Rank: 124

In recent years, the Toreros have been long on team chemistry but a tad short on talent, especially in the frontcourt. The frontcourt looks stronger, but the key will be whether new elements can be mixed in without affecting the chemistry. Jason Blair, an undersized power forward/center, led the league in field-goal percentage and was among the top 10 in scoring and rebounding last season. He gets help—and relief from playing center—with the eligibility of 290-pound Oklahoma State transfer Jason Keep. Junior college transfers Lawrence Maroney and Abdou Sane and redshirt freshman Nick Lewis are additional new faces for the front line. A lot of speed and scoring departed the backcourt with the graduation of Andre Laws. Roy Morris occasionally has shown the potential to replace that scoring. But speed could be an issue for the backcourt and for the team as a whole.

Key players: Roy Morris, G, 6-2/Sr. (49.0 FG%, 42.9 FG%); Jason Blair, F, 6-7/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 55.5 FG%, 43.1 3PT%, 77.7 FT%).
Top newcomers: Jason Keep, C, 6-10/Sr.; Lawrence Maroney, G, 6-6/Jr.
Key losses: Andre Laws, G (18.2 ppg, 44.4 FG%); Sam Adamo, G/F (10.2 ppg, 40.5 FG%, 81.1 FT%);

Tom Lippold, F, (4.4 rpg, 40 FG%, 40 3PT%).
Coach: Brad Holland (126-99, 8 years; 149-130, 10 years overall).
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: San Diego.
Home court: Jenny Craig Pavilion (5,100).
Website: usdtoreros.com

5. Santa Clara, National Rank: 150

Dick Davey had two sub-.500 teams in his first nine years as coach at Santa Clara—and followed them with 21-win and 19-win seasons. So there's precedent for improvement even in the wake of last year's 13-15 disappointment and first-round WCC tournament upset loss to Saint Mary's. If improvement comes, it will probably have a lot to do with the performance of Kyle Bailey, one of the premier point guards in the league. But he's going to need a whole lot of help from a lot of teammates in on-the-job training situations. G J.R. Patrick, the latest in a line of Canadians to play at Santa Clara, is the most promising of five newcomers. Patrick was a junior college All-American at North Dakota State College of Science and shoots 3-pointers and passes well. He looks like the most natural fit on what figures to be a smaller, quicker and still perimeter-oriented Broncos team.
Key players: Kyle Bailey, G, 6-2/Jr. (13.4 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.9 apg, 34.3 3PT%, 77.9 FT%); Jordan Legge, F, 6-8/So. (5.0 rpg, 61.9 FG%).
Top newcomers: J.R. Patrick, G, 6-4/Jr.; Travis Niesen, F, 6-7/Fr.
Key losses: Steve Ross, F (15.7 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 40.4 FG%, 41.8 3PT% 85.0 FT%); Justin Holbrook, F (73.9 FT%), Brian Vaka, G (43.8 FG%).
Coach: Dick Davey (173-117, 10 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Santa Clara, Calif.
Home court: Leavey Center (5,000).
Website: www.santaclarabroncos.com

6. Saint Mary's, National Rank: 219

Under first-year coach Randy Bennett, the Gaels crawled out from the rubble of a 2000-01 disaster and showed the league some life, especially with the first-round tournament upset of Santa Clara. As expected, they did it the old-fashioned way—with defense (No. 1 in fewest points allowed in the league), rebounding (No. 2 defensively) and an emphasis on fundamentals. Look for more of the same this season with the possibility of additional offense from improving F Chase Poole and Gs Paul Marigney and Adam Caporn. Colorado State transfer Jonathon Sanders, who's versatile enough to play three different positions, also figures to add some punch when he becomes eligible in December. Adding size up front was the recruiting emphasis, with 6-10 Australian Daniel Kickert the prize among three newcomers who are 6-9 and taller.
Key players: Chase Poole, F, 6-8/Jr. (10.2 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 50.5 FG%, 1.2 bpg); Paul Marigney, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 42.7 FG%, 33.8 3PT%, 83.0 FT%).
Top newcomers: Daniel Kickert, F, 6-10/Fr.; Jonathon Sanders, G, 6-7/So.
Key losses: Teohn Conner, F/C (4.5 rpg); Ethnie Stubbs, F (4.6 rpg, 41.3 FG%, 70.1 FT%).
Coach: Randy Bennett (9-20, 1 year)
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Moraga, Calif.
Home court: McKeon Pavilion (3,500).
Website: www.smcgaels.com

7. Loyola Marymount, National Rank: 250

The program Steve Aggers made strides in turning around in his first season took a serious turn for the worse in mid-January and never got back on track. The Lions were 9-8 overall and 2-2 in league play on January 18, then went 0-12 the rest of the season. Except for shooting free throws (77.7 percent), the Lions didn't do anything particularly well and weren't very competitive. Aggers, who had engineered a seven-game turnaround in 2001 (from 2-26 to 9-19) has turned to youth in search of success that could last. Seven incoming freshmen, five recruited, will be the most in the LMU program in 27 years.
Key players: Andy Osborn, F, 6-9/So. (10.1 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 45.2 FG%, 75.9 FT%); Kent Dennis, G, 6-3/Jr. (79.5 FT%).
Top newcomers: Dustin Brown, F, 6-7/Fr.; John Haywood, F, 6-6/Fr.
Key losses: Greg Lakey, F (11.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 50.6 FG%, 88.8 FT%); Eurskine Robinson, G (3.7 apg, 87.7 FT%).
Coach: Steve Aggers (18-39, 2 years).
Last league title: 1990.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Los Angeles. **Home court:** Gersten Pavilion (4,156). **Website:** www.lmulions.com

8. Portland, National Rank: 275

The first obvious benefactor of first-year coach Michael Holton's resolve to play an uptempo game and punish people from the perimeter was G Casey Frandsen. Frandsen went from a little-noticed freshman to a couldn't-be-missed sophomore, averaging 19.2 points, second-best in the WCC. He had 13 games of 20-plus points and hit for 30 or more twice. With Frandsen and friends firing away, the Pilots were fun to watch and even upset Oregon. But youth, uninspiring defense and rebounding deficiencies took a heavy toll. Holton landed two inside players and two scorers and appears prepared to make the perimeter a top priority again.
Key players: Casey Frandsen, G, 6-3/Jr. (19.2 ppg, 43.1 FG%, 40.3 3PT%, 81.3 FT%); Adam Quick, G, 6-2/Jr. (5.7 apg, 76.4 FT%).
Top newcomers: Eugene Jeter, G, 5-10/Fr.; Andreas Gahlmann, C, 6-9/So.
Key losses: Ross Jorgusen, G, (76.5 FT%); Coky Rochin, F/C (15.5 ppg, 9.6 rpg, 48.9 FG%).
Coach: Michael Holton (6-24, 1 year).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Portland, Ore.
Home court: Leavey Center (5,000).
Website: www.portlandpilots.com

West Coast Schedules

Gonzaga
N22 Hofstra
N25-27 Maui Invitational
D2 Washington
D5 at Montana
D7 at Washington State
D15 Georgia*
D17 NC State**
D20 Long Beach State
D22 at East. Washington
D28 Stanford***
D31 St. Joseph's
J2 at Portland State
J7 Tulsa
J11 Portland
J16 at Santa Clara
J18 at San Diego
J23 Pepperdine
J25 Loyola Marymount
J30 at San Francisco
F1 at St. Mary's
F5 at Pepperdine
F8 at Portland
F13 San Diego
F15 Santa Clara
F20 at Loy. Marymount
F22 Bracket Buster
F27 St. Mary's
M1 Santa Clara
*at Atlanta
**at East Rutherford, N.J.
***at Oakland

Loyola Marymount
N22 Loyola (Ill.)
N25 Sacramento State
N27-30 Gr. Alaska S.O.
D4 at UC Irvine
D7 Cal State Fullerton
D14 Long Beach State
D16 at Cal Poly
D19 at Cal St. Northridge
D21 Montana
D29-30 Big R Classic
J3 at San Diego State
J6 Point Loma
J9 at Gonzaga
J11 at Portland
J17 Santa Clara
J18 San Diego
J25 at Pepperdine
J31 at San Francisco
F1 at St. Mary's
F6 Portland
F8 Gonzaga
F13 at Santa Clara
F15 at San Diego
F22 Pepperdine
F28 San Francisco
M1 St. Mary's

Pepperdine
N22 at Bradley
N30 UC Irvine
D2 at Long Beach State
D4 at Cal St. Fullerton
D7 UC Santa Barbara
D14 Oregon
D16-17 Stanford Invit.
D20 Utah
D22 Lipscomb
D28-29 Lobo Invitational
J2 at BYU
J11 at Loy. Marymount
J17 St. Mary's
J18 San Francisco
J23 at Gonzaga
J25 at Portland
J31 Santa Clara
F1 San Diego
F5 Gonzaga
F8 Loyola Marymount
F14 at San Francisco
F15 at St. Mary's
F21 Portland
F27 at San Diego
M1 at Santa Clara

Portland
N22 Pacific
N27 San Diego State
N30 Portland State
D4 at Oregon
D7 Oregon State
D14 at UCLA
D17 Weber State
D21 at Nevada
D23 at Portland State
D28 Northern Arizona
D30 at Long Beach State
J4 at East. Washington
J6 at Montana State
J11 at Gonzaga
J16 at San Diego
J18 at Santa Clara
J23 Loyola Marymount
J25 Pepperdine
J31 at St. Mary's
F1 at San Francisco
F8 Gonzaga
F13 Santa Clara
F15 San Diego
F21 at Loy. Marymount
F22 at Pepperdine
F27 at San Francisco
M1 St. Mary's

St. Mary's
N26 at East. Washington
N29-30 McCaffrey Cl.
D4 San Jose State
D7 Portland State
D14 at Stanford
D17 UC Riverside
D22 UC Irvine
D28 Cal Poly
D30 Brown
J2 Yale
J6 at Utah
J11 at San Francisco
J17 Portland
J18 Gonzaga
J23 at San Diego
J25 at Santa Clara
J31 Pepperdine
F1 Loyola Marymount
F8 San Francisco
F13 at Gonzaga
F15 at Portland
F21 San Diego
F22 Santa Clara
F28 at Pepperdine
M1 at Loy. Marymount

San Diego
N23 Nevada
N26 at UCLA
N30 at Riverside
D4 Northridge
D6-7 Boilermaker Inv.
D11 at BYU
D14 UC San Diego
D21 Riverside
D23 Utah
D28 at Nevada
J2 at SMU
J11 Santa Clara
J17 at Loy.-Marymount
J18 at Pepperdine
J23 Saint Mary's
J25 San Francisco
J30 at Portland
F1 at Gonzaga
F8 at Santa Clara
F13 Pepperdine
F15 Loyola-Marymount
F21 at Saint Mary's
F22 at San Francisco
F27 Portland
M1 Gonzaga

San Francisco
N23 at Seton Hall
N26 Nevada
N30 at UC S. Barbara
D2 Southern
D4 at Sacramento St.
D7 Fresno State
D14 at Pacific
D28 Cal State Fullerton
D30 at California
J2 at Michigan
J4 Brown
J10 Santa Clara
J11 San Diego
J17 at Loy. Marymount
J18 at Pepperdine
J25 St. Mary's
J31 Gonzaga
F1 Portland
F6 at San Diego
F8 at Santa Clara
F14 Pepperdine
F15 Loyola Marymount
F22 at St. Mary's
F27 at Portland
M1 at Gonzaga

Santa Clara
N22 at Pacific
N25 UC Santa Cruz
N27 Montana State
N30 San Jose State
D4 at Fresno State
D7 Washington
D14 Nevada
D20 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
D22 at Loyola (Md.)
D27-28 Cable Car Classic
D30 Wright State
J4 at UNLV
J11 at San Diego
J17 at Pepperdine
J18 at Loy. Marymount
J23 San Francisco
J25 Saint Mary's
J30 at Gonzaga
F1 at Portland
F8 San Diego
F13 Loyola Marynount
F15 Pepperdine
F21 at San Francisco
F22 at Saint Mary's
F27 Gonzaga
M1 Portland

Mid-American

PREDICTIONS

West
1. Ball State
2. Western Michigan
3. Bowling Green
4. Northern Illinois
5. Central Michigan
6. Toledo
7. Eastern Michigan

East
1. Ohio*
2. Akron
3. Miami
4. Kent State
5. Marshall
6. Buffalo

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ronald Blackshear, Marshall	6-5	210	Jr.
G	Robby Collum, W. Michigan	6-1	205	Sr.
F	Theron Smith, Ball State	6-8	225	Sr.
F	Brandon Hunter, Ohio	6-7	260	Sr.
F	Antonio Gates, Kent State	6-5	240	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Nick Moore, Toledo	6-1	188	Sr.
G	Ricky Cottrill, E. Michigan	6-3	195	Jr.
G	Chris Williams, Ball State	6-3	180	Sr.
G	Sonny Johnson, Ohio	6-5	211	Sr.
C	Chris Kaman, C. Michigan	7-0	255	Jr.

Player of the Year
Theron Smith, Ball State

Newcomer of the Year
Cameron Echols, F/C, Ball State

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Nick Moore, Toledo
Best playmaker: Turner Battle, Buffalo
Best dunker: Marcus Smallwood, N. Illinois
Best NBA prospect: Theron Smith, Ball State
Most likely to blossom: Chris Kaman, C. Michigan
Best rebounder: Theron Smith, Ball State
Best defender: Eugene Seals, Miami
Best game coach: Charlie Coles, Miami
Most versatile: Theron Smith, Ball State
Will take a charge: Robby Collum, W. Mich.

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
East				
Kent State*	17	1	27	5
Bowling Green^	12	6	24	9
Ohio	11	7	17	11
Miami	9	9	13	18
Marshall	8	10	15	15
Buffalo	7	11	12	18
Akron	5	13	10	21
West				
Ball State^^	12	6	23	12
Toledo	11	7	16	14
Western Michigan	10	8	17	13
Northern Illinois	8	10	12	16
Central Michigan	5	13	9	19
Eastern Michigan	2	16	6	24

*Lost to Indiana in NCAA South final.
^Lost to Butler in NIT first round.
^^Lost to South Carolina in NIT quarterfinals.

WEST DIVISION

1. Ball State
National Rank: 62

Outlook: PF Theron Smith flirted with the NBA draft last spring before returning to school. His decision makes Ball State the favorite to win the MAC championship. For that to happen, PG Matt McCollom and swingman Robert Owens must improve their consistency significantly to help take some of the burden off Smith. McCollom has to become a dependable shooter, and Owens must make better floor decisions. Smith tore the ACL in his right knee last May during a workout with the Toronto Raptors. He's expected to be healthy by November and should be the most versatile and dominant player in the league. Because the perimeter game is full of unproven scorers, G Chris Williams must become a more consistent offensive threat.
Key players: Theron Smith, F, 6-8/Sr. (19.6 ppg, 10.9 rpg); Chris Williams, G, 6-3/Sr. (15.9 ppg).
Top newcomers: Cameron Echols, C/F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Patrick Jackson, G (16.6 ppg, 3.5 apg); Lonnie Jones, C (7.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 2.6 bpg).
Coach: Tim Buckley (41-24, two years; 91-76 overall, 6 years).
Last league title: 2002 (MAC West).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Muncie, Ind.
Home court: John E. Worthern Arena (11,500).
Website: www.bsu.edu/sports

2. Western Michigan
National Rank: 68

Outlook: The Broncos are a team on the rise in the MAC. They won 10 more games last season than the previous season. Their rise should continue this season—if they can find a dependable low-post scoring threat. F Anthony Kann emerged last year as a good rebounder, but he needs help inside from Jeff Bronson, Nick Evola and Steve Green. PG Robby Collum, one of four brothers to play Division I basketball, led the MAC last season in free-throw percentage and steals. He should become recognized as one of the top players in the MAC. Ben Reed, last year's MAC Freshman of the Year, suffered a torn ACL in February. Reed, a physical shooting guard, returned to the court in August to prepare for the team's trip to Europe.
Key players: Robby Collum, PG, 6-1/Sr. (15.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 2.4 spg, 86.4 FT%); Anthony Kann, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.3 ppg, 7.2 rpg).
Top newcomers: Bobby Madison, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Brian Snider, G, 6-6/Fr.
Key loss: Steve Reynolds, F (16.9 ppg, 4.0 rpg).
Coach: Robert McCullum (24-34, 2 years).
Last league title: 1998 (MAC West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Kalamazoo, Mich.
Home court: University Arena (5,649).
Website: www.wmubroncos.com

3. Bowling Green
National Rank: 78

Outlook: Bowling Green, new to the West Division this year, has won more conference games the last four seasons than any other team in the division. To maintain that pace, the Falcons have to overcome the huge losses of G Keith McLeod and C Len Matela. In their absence, Bowling Green needs solid performances from veterans G Cory Ryan, F Josh Almanson, C Kevin Netter and G Jabari Mattox. All played supporting roles last season. Mattox might have the most important job, taking over for PG Brandon Pardon. Mattox, a great defender, will be expected to take a huge leadership role. Falcons coach Dan Dakich demands stout defense, and sophomore G Erik Crawford, the only returning starter, can shackle opposing scorers.
Key players: Josh Almanson, F, 6-8/Jr. (53.1 FG%); Kevin Netter, C, 6-10/Jr.(51.9 FG%); Cory Ryan, G, 6-5/Sr. (44.9 FG%, 39.6 3PT%);
Top newcomers: Ronald Lewis, F, 6-4/Fr.; Raheem Moss, G, 6-4/Fr.
Key losses: Keith McLeod, G (22.9 ppg); Len Matela, C (15.9 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 59.4 FG%).
Coach: Dan Dakich (89-57, 5 years).
Last league title: 2000 (MAC East).
Last NCAA appearance: 1968.
Site: Bowling Green, Ohio
Home court: Anderson Arena (5,000).
Website: www.bgsufalcons.com

4. Northern Illinois
National Rank: 167

Outlook: One of the first things new coach Rob Judson noticed last season was that the Huskies weren't strong enough to play defense effectively, so he put players on a weight program in the off-season. That improvement, plus added height in the frontcourt, should help Northern Illinois improve its average points allowed, which was 79.7 last season. The concern on offense is finding a proven scorer. Marcus Smallwood, P.J. Smith and Jamel Staten all have to provide more scoring. Smallwood is one of the MAC's hidden gems. He averaged 12.2 points and ranked fifth in the league in blocked shots. Rome Sanders, a 6-7 forward from Chicago, was on nearly every Illinois all-state team last year. The Huskies think 6-10 redshirt freshman C Bryson McKenzie can become a shot-blocking force.
Key players: Marcus Smallwood, F, 6-6/Jr. (12.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.4 bpg); P.J. Smith, G, 6-4/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 2.5 apg).
Top newcomers: Rome Sanders, F, 6-7/Fr.; Bryson McKenzie, C, 6-10/Fr.
Key losses: Leon Rodgers, F (21.3 ppg, 8.5 rpg).
Coach: Rob Judson (12-16, 1 year).
Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: DeKalb, Ill.
Home court: Chick Evans Field Center (6,044).
Website: www.niuhuskies.com

5. Central Michigan
National Rank: 174

Outlook: Central Michigan should show more speed and quickness this season and therefore defend better on the perimeter. The offense must find a point guard—T.J. Meerman, now a junior, took over the position the last four games of last season—who can be a leader and not turn the ball over. The Chippewas must develop a mental toughness to play on the road; they were 2-17 away from home last season. C Chris Kaman, an agile 7-footer, has shown signs the last two seasons of becoming a dominant player. He could take a big step forward this season because the league doesn't have an abundance of big men.

Key players: Chris Kaman, C, 7-0/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 61.4 FG%); Whitney Robinson, G, 5-11/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 82.8 FT%).
Top newcomers: Joe Carr, G, 5-6/Fr.; Corey Hallett, F, 6-9/Fr.
Key losses: David Webber, G (17.7 ppg); Chad Pleines, F (11.2 ppg, 4.5 rpg).
Coach: Jay Smith (50-87, 5 years; 73-93 overall, 6 years)
Last league title: 2001 (MAC West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Mount Pleasant, Mich.
Home court: Rose Arena (5,200).
Website: www.cmuchippewas.com

6. Toledo
National Rank: 179

Outlook: The Rockets have finished first or second in the West the last four seasons, but doing it this season will be a challenge. The most intriguing question will be whether PG Terry Reynolds' transfer will help or hurt. Reynolds has outstanding talent, but he played out of control most of the time and didn't have the respect of most of his teammates. Transfer J.T. West will take over for Reynolds at the point. Experience could hold the Rockets together. G Nick Moore was the team's most consistent player last season, and three returning junior starters—Keith Triplett, Ricardo Thomas and A.J. Shellabarger—must match Moore's consistency. Milo Kirsch is the team's most experienced inside player.
Key players: Nick Moore, G, 6-1/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.0 apg); Keith Triplett, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 6.0 rpg); Ricardo Thomas, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg); A.J. Shellabarger, C, 6-9/Jr. (4.5 ppg, 3.7 rpg).
Top newcomer: J.T. West, G, 5-9/Jr. (transfer/Alcorn State).
Key loss: Terry Reynolds, G (14.1 ppg, 3.8 rpg).
Coach: Stan Joplin (103-73, 6 years).
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Toledo, Ohio.
Home court: Savage Hall (9,000).
Website: www.utrockets.com

7. Eastern Michigan
National Rank: 192

Outlook: The first two years of the Jim Boone era at Eastern Michigan didn't answer many questions about the future of the program. The Eagles are the only MAC team to return all five starters, but is having five starters back from the worst team in the conference a good thing? "We are working to create a great presence, not only on our own campus but throughout Michigan," Boone said. It's time to show that in Ypsilanti. G Ricky Cottrill is one of the most dangerous perimeter shooters in the MAC. He hasn't consistently knocked down shots, but he's capable of extended hot streaks. F Steve Pettyjohn is a no-frills performer who represents most of the Eagles' inside attack.
Key players: Ricky Cottrill, G, 6-3/Jr. (19.4 ppg, 84.6 FT%); Steve Pettyjohn, F, 6-8/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 7.3 rpg).
Top newcomers: JaQuan Hart, G/F, 6-6/So. (transfer, Ohio State).
Key losses: None.
Coach: Jim Boone (9-49, 2 years; 282-186 overall, 16 years).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Ypsilanti, Mich.
Home court: Convocation Center (8,824).
Website: www.emich.edu/goeagles

EAST DIVISION

1. Ohio
National Rank: 37

Outlook: The team struggled to a third-place finish in the East last season before losing to 12th-seeded Central Michigan in the league tournament. But the Bobcats should be much improved. After a full season, coach Tim O'Shea's system should be firmly in place, and the Bobcats might have the most talented threesome in the MAC in seniors PF Brandon Hunter, SF Sonny Johnson and swingman Steve Esterkamp. Hunter provides muscle; Johnson and Esterkamp are effective on the perimeter and from midrange. Ohio needs to find a center who can complement Hunter, a bruising, 260-pound senior who can be the most dominant player in the MAC but is inconsistent.
Key players: Brandon Hunter, F, 6-7/Sr. (17.3 ppg, 9.1 rpg, 48.9 FG%); Sonny Johnson, F, 6-5/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 51.3 FG%, 78.5 FG%); Steve Esterkamp, G/F, 6-6, Sr. (13.4 ppg, 78.5 FT%).
Top newcomers: Marin Bota, C, 7-1/So. (transfer/Auburn); Delvar Barrett, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: None.
Coach: Tim O'Shea (17-11, 1 year).
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Athens, Ohio.
Home court: Convocation Center (13,000).
Website: www.ohiobobcats.com

2. Akron
National Rank: 80

Outlook: Expectations are at their highest level since the team won the East Division title in 1998. The Zips are legitimately two deep at every position except point guard, and their best player, SF Andy Hipsher, is healthy after struggling the last two years because of a back injury. Akron has always focused on offense, and this year's team has the ability to be one of the highest-scoring teams in the MAC. The concern is whether it can muscle up and grind it out on defense. The Zips' recruiting emphasis has been on players who can shoot well and score in different ways. That hasn't translated to stout play on defense.
Key players: Andy Hipsher, F, 6-8/Jr. (12.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 75.4 FT%); Darryl Peterson, F, 6-5/So. (13.1 ppg, 5.0 rpg)
Top newcomers: Jonathon Hollingsworth, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/JC); Derrick Tarver, G, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Rashon Brown, G (16.7 ppg); David Falknor, F (11.4 ppg, 87.3 F%, 44.4 3PT%).
Coach: Dan Hipsher (85-108, 7 years; 211-153 overall, 13 years).
Last league title: 1998 (MAC East).
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Akron, Ohio.
Home court: James A. Rhodes Arena (5,942).
Website: www.gozips.com

3. Miami (Ohio)
National Rank: 93

Outlook: The RedHawks have four returning starters, but it's the youngest group they've had in many years. Miami should have good character and cohesion, which last year's team lacked. The RedHawks return their four top defensive players, which should help overcome the loss of their two best scorers. Several players, including Gs Juby Johnson and Chet Mason and F Eugene Seals, have the potential to make up for some of the lost scoring. Redshirt freshman Nate VanderSluis is projected to be the starting center. He suffered a fracture in his left foot last October and didn't return to practice the rest of the season. Seals is a high-energy player and strong defender who should emerge as an offensive threat.
Key players: Juby Johnson, G, 6-5/Jr. (10.5 ppg); Danny Horace, F, 6-5/So. (6.5 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.2 bpg).
Top newcomers: Josh Hausfeld, G, 6-3/Fr., William Hatcher, G, 6-2/Fr.
Key losses: Doug Davis, G (12.1 ppg, 84.2 FT%); Alex Shorts, F (13.6 ppg, 83.3 FT%).
Coach: Charlie Coles (107-78, 6 years; 199-262 overall, 12 years).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Oxford, Ohio.
Home court: Millett Hall (9,200).
Website: www.muredhawks.com

4. Kent State
National Rank: 133

Outlook: The Golden Flashes rolled to the Elite Eight of last year's NCAA Tournament. This year will be drastically different for new coach Jim Christian. Kent State must find a starting backcourt; it has no players with proven experience there. The loss of four seniors makes leadership a major question. The inside game was supposed to be a weakness last year, but behind F Antonio Gates and F/C Nate Gerwig, it has evolved into this year's strength. Gates is a deft passer who can play a punishing style. Gerwig, who will be asked to provide more offense this season, has shown a nice shooting touch in the paint.
Key players: Antonio Gates, F, 6-5/Sr. (16 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 51.8 FG%); Nate Gerwig, F/C, 6-9/So. (3.5 rpg, 68.1 FG%).
Top newcomers: Armon Gates, G, 6-2/Fr.; Matt Jakeway, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer, Austin Peay).
Key losses: Demetric Shaw, G (7.3 ppg, 1.0 spg); Trevor Huffman, G (16 ppg, 4.4 apg); Andrew Mitchell, G, 15.3 ppg, 3.3 apg).
Coach: Jim Christian (1st year).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time did not make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Kent, Ohio.
Home court: M.A.C. Center (6,327).
Website: www.kent.edu/athletics

5. Marshall
National Rank: 141

Outlook: Marshall always seems to be in the position of having to prove itself, and this year is no different. The Thundering Herd's strong talent base the last few years never translated into an division title or advancement past the semifinal round of the conference tournament. The core of that talent base is gone. The Thundering Herd has a legitimate scorer in G Ronald Blackshear and a decent backcourt, but it has no reliable inside threats. None of the returning frontcourt players played in more than 10 games last season.

Marshall has seven new recruits and transfers, and the challenge will be to blend them with the holdovers.
Key players: Ronald Blackshear, G, 6-5/Jr. (19.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 46 3PT%); Monty Wright, G, 6-4/Sr. (6.8 ppg; 3.65 apg).
Top newcomers: David Anderson, F, 6-8/So. (transfer, Oklahoma State); A.W. Hamilton, G, 6-3/So. (transfer, Wake Forest).
Key losses: Tamar Slay, G/F (18.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg); J.R. VanHoose, C/F (15.0 ppg, 10.6 rpg).
Coach: Greg White (101-69, six years; 220-223 overall, 16 years).
Last league title: 1995 (Southern).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Huntington, W.Va.
Home court: Cam Henderson Center (9,043).
Website: www.herdzone.com

6. Buffalo
National Rank: 203

Outlook: Inexperience will hinder the Bulls. They have only two seniors and one junior in a conference in which teams heavy with upperclassmen usually are dominant. Depth in the post is a concern; backup C Mark Bortz is coming off a season plagued by knee injuries. The play of Gs Turner Battle, Jason Bird and Daniel Gilbert should be the strength of the team. Those three will give coach Reggie Witherspoon a chance to use the pressing, uptempo style he prefers. Gilbert has great athletic ability, and Bird is the team's best shooter. Freshman PG Calvin Cage is lightning quick.
Key players: Turner Battle, G, 6-3/So. (7.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.4 apg); Clement Smith, F, 6-8/Sr. (53.3 FG%).
Top newcomers: Calvin Cage, G, 5-11/Fr.; Roderick Middleton, G/F, 6-3/Fr.
Key losses: Darcel Williams, F (15.1 ppg, 8.0 rpg); Louis Campbell, G (12.6 ppg).
Coach: Reggie Witherspoon (19-62, 3 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Buffalo, N.Y.
Home court: Alumni Arena (8,500).
Website: www.buffalobulls.com

Mid-American Schedules

Akron
N23 at Wright State
N26 Capital
N30 at Oakland
D4 Cleveland State
D7 at James Madison
D11 Iona
D14 at Niagara
D21 Radford
D28 Hampton
D29 Cincinnati*
J4 Ball State
J8 Ohio
J11 at Miami
J18 Kent State
J22 at Bowling Green
J25 at Western Michigan
J29 Buffalo
F1 Eastern Michigan
F5 Toledo
F8 at Ohio
F12 at Central Michigan
F18 Miami
F22 at Marshall
F24 at Northern Illinois
F26 Central Michigan
M1 at Kent State
M5 Marshall
M8 at Buffalo
*at Cleveland

Ball State
N21-24 Top of World Cl.
N30 at Butler
D3 IUPUI
D7 Wright State
D14 Indiana State
D17 at Dayton
D20 at Xavier
D31 Indiana
J4 at Akron
J7 at Bowling Green
J11 Northern Illinois
J15 Western Michigan
J18 Toledo
J21 Eastern Michigan
J25 at Miami
J28 Marshall
F1 at Northern Illinois
F6 Ohio
F8 Miami
F12 Kent State
F15 at Buffalo
F19 at Central Michigan
F22 Bracket Buster
F26 Bowling Green
M1 at Western Michigan
M5 at Toledo
M8 Central Michigan

Bowling Green
N23 at Detroit
N30 Tiffin
D4 Buffalo
D7 at Northwestern
D1 at Michigan
D14 Alabama*
D19 Oakland
D21 Urbana
D28 Cleveland State
J4 at Northern Illinois
J7 Ball State
J11 at Kent State
J14 at Eastern Michigan
J18 Akron
J21 at Western Michigan
J25 Northern Illinois
J28 at Ohio
F1 at Central Michigan
F5 Kent State
F8 at Marshall
F11 at Toledo
F15 Western Michigan
F22 Bracket Buster
F25 at Ball State
M1 Miami
M6 Eastern Michigan
M8 Toledo
*at Mobile, Ala.

Buffalo
N22 Cornell
N24 Chicago State
N30 Rhode Island
D4 at Bowling Green
D7 at Youngstown St.
D11 Niagara
D14 at Canisius
D30 at Northwestern
J4 at Penn State
J8 Marshall
J11 at Akron
J15 Kent State
J18 at Central Michigan
J21 Ohio
J25 at Marshall
F1 at Miami
F6 Northern Illinois
F8 at Ohio
F11 Eastern Michigan
F15 Ball State
F18 at Kent State
F22 Miami
F25 Toledo
M3 at Eastern Michigan
M5 at Western Michigan
M8 Akron

Central Michigan
N22 George Mason
N24 Georgia State
N26 Illinois State
N30 at DePaul
D3 at Michigan
D8 Drake
D14 at Marist
D18 at Bradley
D23 at Valparaiso
D30 Spring Arbor
J4 at Miami
J8 at Western Michigan
J11 Ohio
J14 at Marshall
J18 Buffalo
J22 Toledo
J25 at Eastern Michigan
J29 at Kent State
F1 Bowling Green
F8 at Akron
F10 Western Michigan
F15 at Toledo
F19 Ball State
F22 at Northern Illinois
F25 Akron
M1 Eastern Michigan
M5 Northern Illinois
M8 at Ball State

Eastern Michigan
N22-23 Pepsi-Marist Cl.
N26 Robert Morris
D2 Concordia (Mich.)
D10 Rochester (Mich.)
D21 Gardner-Webb
D23 at Michigan
D28 at Navy
J4 at Kent State
J7 Wis.-Green Bay
J11 at Western Michigan
J14 Bowling Green
J18 at Northern Illinois
J21 Ball State
J25 Central Michigan
J29 Miami
F1 at Akron
F3 Marshall
F8 Toledo
F11 at Buffalo
F15 Northern Illinois
F19 at Ohio
F22 at Toledo
F26 Western Michigan
M1 at Central Michigan
M3 Buffalo
M6 at Bowling Green

Kent State
N22-23 South Padre Cl.
N28 Kentucky*
N30 SW Missouri State
D4 at Rhode Island
D7 Illinois State
D14 at Cleveland State
D18 at Chattanooga
D21 at St. Bonaventure
D29 at Cleveland State
J4 Eastern Michigan
J8 at Miami
J11 Bowling Green
J15 at Buffalo
J18 Marshall
J23 at Akron
J25 at Toledo
J29 Central Michigan
F1 at Western Michigan
F3 Miami
F6 at Bowling Green
F8 Northern Illinois
F12 at Ball State
F15 at Ohio
F18 Buffalo
F22 Bracket Buster
F25 at Marshall
M1 Akron
M8 Ohio
*at Cincinnati

Marshall
N22 at Niagara
N25 Kentucky State
D2 at Rutgers
D7 at Northern Illinois
D14 Radford
D15 Auburn*
D17 at Morehead State
D20 Western Carolina
D28 at Massachusetts
J4 Western Michigan
J8 at Buffalo
J11 Toledo
J14 Central Michigan
J22 West Virginia**
J28 at Kent State
F1 Ohio
F3 at Eastern Michigan
F5 at Western Michigan
F8 Bowling Green
F12 Akron
F15 at Miami
F22 Bracket Buster
F25 Kent State
M1 at Ohio
M5 at Akron
M8 Miami
*at Mobile, Ala.
**at Charleston, W.Va.

Miami (Ohio)
N22 at Purdue
N24 at Maryland
N30 at Wright State
D4 Dayton
D7 Western Michigan
D9 at Xavier
D14 Butler
D20-21 Hawaii Festival
D28 at Cincinnati
D30 Evansvile
J4 Central Michigan
J8 Kent State
J14 at Toledo
J18 at Ohio
J20 Akron
J25 Ball State
J29 at Eastern Michigan
F1 Buffalo
F3 at Kent State
F8 at Ball State
F15 Marshall
F20 at Akron
F22 at Buffalo
F25 Northern Illinois
M1 at Bowling Green
M5 Ohio
M8 at Marshall

Northern Illinois
N15-16 NABC Classic
N23 DePaul
N27 Loyola
N30 at Valparaiso
D4 Drake
D7 Marshall
D17 at South Florida
D21 at Illinois State
D28 Illinois-Chicago
D30 at Eastern Illinois
J4 Bowling Green
J8 at Toledo
J11 at Ball State
J15 at Ohio
J18 Eastern Michigan
J25 at Bowling Green
J29 Akron
F1 Ball State
F6 at Buffalo
F8 at Kent State
F11 Ohio
F15 at Eastern Michigan
F22 Central Michigan
F25 at Miami
M1 Toledo
M5 at Central Michigan
M8 Western Michigan

Ohio
N30 at Providence
D2 at Brown
D7 at Toledo
D10 at DePaul
D13 at Boston University
D20 Navy
D23 at Wisconsin
D31 St. Bonaventure
J4 Kentucky*
J8 Akron
J11 at Central Michigan
J15 Northern Illinois
J18 Miami
J21 at Buffalo
J28 Bowling Green
F1 at Marshall
F6 at Ball State
F8 Buffalo
F11 at Northern Illinois
F15 Kent State
F17 at Akron
F19 Eastern Michigan
F22 Western Michigan
F26 Virginia
M1 Marshall
M5 at Miami
M8 at Kent State
*at Cincinnati

Toledo
N22-25 Paradise Jam
N30 at Youngstown State
D3 Siena
D7 Ohio
D11 at Wright State
D14 Detroit
D21 Arkansas State
D28 at St. Bonaventure
D30 at Michigan State
J8 Northern Illinois
J11 at Marshall
J14 Miami
J18 at Ball State
J22 at Central Michigan
J25 Kent State
J28 Western Michigan
F5 at Akron
F8 at Eastern Michigan
F11 Bowling Green
F15 Central Michigan
F18 at Western Michigan
F22 Eastern Michigan
F25 at Buffalo
M1 at Northern Illinois
M5 Ball State
M8 at Bowling Green

Western Michigan
N22-23 Sooner Invitational
N30 at Michigan
D2 Detroit
D7 at Miami
D14 Centenary
D17 at Auburn
D21 Virginia Tech
D30 at IUPUI
J4 at Marshall
J8 Central Michigan
J11 Eastern Michigan
J15 at Ball State
J22 Bowling Green
J25 Akron
J28 at Toledo
F1 Kent State
F5 Marshall
F10 at Central Michigan
F15 at Bowling Green
F18 Toledo
F22 at Ohio
F26 at Eastern Michigan
M1 Ball State
M5 Buffalo
M8 at Northern Illinois

Rank 14

Dan McDonald, Lafayette (La.) Daily Advertiser

Sun Belt

PREDICTIONS

East
1. Western Kentucky*
2. Ark.-Little Rock
3. Middle Tennessee
4. Arkansas State
5. Fla. International

West
1. Louisiana-Lafayette
2. New Mexico State
3. New Orleans
4. North Texas
5. South Alabama
6. Denver

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Chris Davis, North Texas	6-5	215	Sr.
G	Nick Zachery, Ark.-Little Rock	6-3	205	Jr.
F	Hector Romero, New Orleans	6-7	225	Sr.
F/C	Michael Southall, La.-Lafayette	6-11	250	So.
C	Chris Marcus, W. Kentucky	7-1	285	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Patrick Sparks, W. Kentucky	6-1	170	So.
G/F	Anthony Johnson, La.-Lafayette	6-6	185	Sr.
F	Taurance Johnson, Fla. Int'l	6-9	235	So.
F	James Moore, New Mexico St.	6-8	210	Jr.
F	David Boyden, W. Kentucky	6-8	230	Sr.

Player of the Year

Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky

Newcomer of the Year

Johnell Smith, G, New Orleans

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Nick Zachery, Ark.-Little Rock
Best playmaker: Patrick Sparks, W. Kentucky
Best dunker: Anthony Johnson, La.-Lafayette
Best NBA prospect: Chris Marcus, W. Kentucky
Most likely to blossom: James Moore, NMSU
Best rebounder: Hector Romero, New Orleans
Best defender: Chris Marcus, W. Kentucky
Best game coach: Lou Henson, NMSU
Most versatile: Chris Davis, North Texas
Will take a charge: Carlos Morban, Florida Int'l

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Western Kentucky*	13	1	28	3
La.-Lafayette^	11	4	20	10
New Mexico State	11	4	20	11
New Orleans	9	6	15	14
Ark.-Little Rock	8	6	18	11
North Texas	8	7	15	14
Middle Tennessee	6	8	14	15
Arkansas State	5	9	15	16
Florida International	4	10	10	20
Denver	3	12	8	20
South Alabama	2	13	7	21

*Lost to Stanford in NCAA Midwest first round.
^Lost to Louisiana Tech in NIT opening round.

EAST DIVISION

1. Western Kentucky, National Rank: 15

Outlook: The Hilltoppers blitzed the league last season, going 28-4, winning a second straight Sun Belt title and finishing in the final Associated Press top 20. Six of that team's top seven players return; surprisingly, one is star C Chris Marcus. A nagging left foot injury limited his play last year and persuaded him to bypass the NBA draft for one more college splash. The only potential problem is the departure of league tournament MVP Derek Robinson, but Patrick Sparks made a huge backcourt impact as a freshman. David Boyden might have been Western's most important player last year because he held the front line together—the team went 15-1 during one streak with Marcus sidelined.
Key players: David Boyden, F, 6-8/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 49.3 FG%); Chris Marcus, C, 7-1/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 2.6 bpg, 52.9 FG%,); Patrick Sparks, G, 6-1/So. (10.7 ppg, 3.7 apg, 45.6 FG%, 43.0 3PT%, 77.8 FT%).
Top newcomers: Jamaal Brown, F, 6-7/Fr.; Michael Doe, C, 7-2/Fr.; Anthony Winchester, G, 6-4/Fr.
Key loss: Derek Robinson, G (10.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 4.1 apg, 45.5 FG%, 45.1 3PT%).
Coach: Dennis Felton (76-45, 4 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Bowling Green, Ky.
Home court: E.A. Diddle Arena (8,100).
Website: www.wkusports.com

A SUN BELT COACH SAYS...

Having the big kid (Chris Marcus) back is a great plus. Having played without him last year and the success Western Kentucky had will only make them more confident. They shoot it well. Their man defense is good because they have good size and quickness, and when you've got Marcus in the middle, he can make you alter your shot. They're strong. They can try to overpower you. It's hard to rattle them. They could have problems with quickness, but their athletes aren't bad.

2. Arkansas-Little Rock, National Rank: 152

Outlook: Coming off two straight 18-win seasons, coach Porter Moser's third team could be even better. Stellar 3-point shooter Nick Zachery, an all-Sun Belt pick, has improved each of his two years and is the league's most unheralded standout. Moser's free-substituting style—11 players averaged double-digit minutes each of the last two years—and team approach to rebounding limits individual superlatives, but it's effective. The team trailed only Western Kentucky in average victory margin last year. Jibrahn Ike and Mark Green are solid, and 6-10 F Jake Yancey improves every week. It won't be enough to catch the Hilltoppers, but the Trojans will be a handful for the rest of the league.
Key players: Mark Green, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 42.0 FG%, 40.6 3PT%, 77.6 FT%); Jibrahn Ike, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 44.5 FG%, 40.6 3PT%, 86.8 FT%); Nick Zachery, G, 6-3/Jr. (16.1 ppg, 3.6 apg, 43.0 FG%, 41.3 3PT%, 84.1 FT%).
Top newcomers: Jamal Holden, F, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/JC), Tony Travis, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Rory Green, G (36.4 3PT%); Damion Ninkovic, F (48.2 FG%).
Coach: Porter Moser (36-22, 2 years).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Little Rock, Ark.
Home court: ALLTEL Arena (10,411).
Website: www.ualr.edu/~athletics

3. Middle Tennessee, National Rank: 157

Outlook: Going from 5-22 to 14-15 wasn't enough to keep former coach Randy Wiel around, so Kermit Davis gets a shot at reviving the program. Davis has four regulars back but needs playmakers. Only the aptly named junior G Tommy Gunn is a strong perimeter threat, but he lacks consistency. The Raiders' biggest need is on the boards—their top two rebounders graduated, and no returnee has a history of piling up boards. Burly F Demario Watson should help, but senior Fs Bryant Mitchell and William Pippen have to make an impact. Newcomer Napoleon Rhodes should help fill the void created by the loss of 1,000-point scorer Lee Nosse.
Key players: Tommy Gunn, G, 6-3/Jr. (12.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 44.7 FG%, 38.3 3PT%); John Humphrey, G, 6-2/Sr. (41.0 FG%, 80.0 FT%); William Pippen, F, 6-8/Sr. (4.1 rpg).
Top newcomers: Napoleon Rhodes, C, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/JC); Kyle Young, G, 6-10/Fr.
Key losses: Lee Nosse, C (12.6 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 1.6 bpg, 53.1 FG%, 38.5 3PT%, 85.5 FT%); Iiro Tenngren, F (7.1 rpg, 47.8 FG%).
Coach: Kermit Davis (1st year; 71-49 overall, 4 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Home court: Murphy Center (11,520).
Website: www.goblueraiders.com

4. Arkansas State, National Rank: 189

Outlook: With twin towers Jason Jennings and Kolin Weaver gone, as well as feisty G Nick Rivers, the biggest concern for coach Dickey Nutt is on the baseline. Junior Kim Adams, who has grabbed nearly 400 rebounds in two years, is the team's only veteran post player. G Odie Williams is the team's leading returning scorer, and he and G Tony Brown combined for more than 220 assists last year. ASU held opponents to 40.5 percent shooting from the field, with Jennings blocking 101 shots last year. But with little experience inside, teams may attack the Indians differently this season.
Key players: Tony Brown, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.3 rpg, 41.3 FG%, 82.4 FT%); Terrance Saulsberry, G, 6-5/Sr. (43.9 FG%, 43.5 3PT%); Odie Williams, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.7 apg, 43.1 FG%, 36.2 3PT%).
Top newcomers: Chris Moore, F, 6-7/ Fr.; Antonio Rambo, G, 5-10/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Jason Jennings, C (14.6 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 3.4 bpg, 56.7 FG%, 79.0 FT%); Nick Rivers, G (17.1 ppg, 45.1 FG%); Kolin Weaver, F/C (10.8 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 48.0 FG%, 37.3 3PT%, 76.1 FT%).
Coach: Dickey Nutt (104-98, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Jonesboro, Ark.
Home court: Convocation Center (10,563).
Website: www.asuindians.com.

5. Florida International, National Rank: 235

Outlook: The Golden Panthers finished 2001-02 with an eight-game losing streak, bottoming out with a 13-point loss in the first round of the league tournament. But seven of those eight losses were on the road and the first six were by single digits, which provides hope. Taurance Johnson emerged as FIU's leader last year, and he will get more front-line help with highly regarded Seton Hall transfer Al Harris finally eligible. Swingman Rodrigo Viegas (second on team in scoring, rebounding and assists) can do a little of everything but is recovering from reconstructive knee surgery. Speedy G Carlos Morban ranked sixth nationally in steals for a club that lives up to its name—seven of the 13 roster players are international students.
Key players: Taurance Johnson, F, 6-9/So. (14.7 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 48.6 FG%); Carlos Morban, G, 6-2/So. (10.0 ppg, 3.1 apg, 3.0 spg, 40.4 FG%); Rodrigo Viegas, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 44.5 FG%).
Top newcomers: Al Harris, F, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/Seton Hall); Junior Matias, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key loss: Chris Carter, G (56.3 FG%).
Coach: Donnie Marsh (18-41, 2 years; 94-95, 7 years overall; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1995 (TAAC East).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Miami
Home court: Golden Panther Arena (5,000).
Website: www.fiu/edu/~athletic

WEST DIVISION

1. Louisiana-Lafayette, National Rank: 118

Outlook: Most of the main cogs are back from last season's conference runner-up squad, including two first-team all-Sun Belt picks in high-flying senior Anthony Johnson and league Freshman of the Year Michael Southall, who set a school record with 97 blocks. The duo had a solid and deep supporting cast—10 players averaged double-figure minutes—and it should be even stronger this year with talented C Chris Cameron now eligible after sitting out last season. The team's depth and underrated defense—foes shot just 39.3 percent from the field last year—helped the Cajuns reach the NIT and become the only team in the Sun Belt with at least 10 wins in each of the last three years.
Key players: Brad Boyd, F, 6-5/Jr. (3.5 apg); Anthony Johnson, F, 6-6/Sr. (14.9 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 45.0 FG%, 80.9 FT%); Michael Southall, C, 6-11/So. (13.0 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 3.1 bpg, 54.4 FG%).
Top newcomers: Chris Cameron, C, 6-11/So.; Spencer Ford, F, 6-6/Fr.; Matt Foster, G, 6-6/Fr.
Key losses: Darryl Robins, F (6.1 rpg, 51.4 FG%); Shea Whiting, F (47.3 FG%).
Coach: Jessie Evans (92-62, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament.)
Last league title: 2000.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Lafayette, La.
Home court: Cajundome (12,800).
Website: www.ragincajuns.com

2. New Mexico State, National Rank: 137

Outlook: NMSU went 20-12 last year, shared the West Division title and lost to Western Kentucky on a buzzer-beater in the league tourney semifinals—and still didn't reach postseason play. Coach Lou Henson hopes that doesn't happen again, and it may not if a seasoned group of returning players has a say. James Moore, one of the league's breakthrough players last season, and fellow starters Brandon Mason, Chris Jackson and Jason Fontenet face the challenge of replacing school scoring leader and three-time academic All-American Eric Channing. The team, which lost eight times last season by 5 points or less, has skill and experience, but the Aggies will need help from some background players if their postseason hopes are to be realized.
Key players: Chris Jackson, C, 6-10/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 55.3 FG%); Brandon Mason, G, 6-5/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 3.5 apg, 40.5 FG%); James Moore, F, 6-8/Jr. (14.8 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 59.4 FG%, 77.5 FT%).
Top newcomers: Earl Calloway, G, 6-2/Fr.; Allen Haynes, G, 6-1/So. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Eric Channing, G (16.2 ppg, 45.8 FG%, 46.0 3PT%, 89.4 FT%); Dennis Trammell, G (38.7 FG%).
Coach: Lou Henson (252-117, 14 years; 742-377 overall, 39 years; 19-20 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1999 (Big West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Las Cruces, N.M.
Home court: Pan American Center (13,071).
Website: www.nmstatesports.com

3. New Orleans, National Rank: 177

Outlook: It's doubtful UNO will suit up for the Final Four at the Louisiana Superdome, for which it is the host team, but the Privateers played like an NCAA Tournament team in winning 10 of 12 to end last season. That strong play should continue with all five starters returning, including senior F Hector Romero, who led the league in rebounding, was second in scoring, won league Player and Newcomer of the Year and earned honorable mention All-American honors. Durable PG A.J. Meredith averaged 4.4 points the first half of the season but went on to average 12.8 points in the final 12 games. Inside force Nerijus Lisauskas and Gs Kyle Buggs, Meredith and Victor Brown all contributed heavily, but they all might take a backseat to junior college transfer Johnell Smith, who averaged 30.4 points last season.
Key players: Victor Brown, G, 6-8/So. (4.8 rpg, 44.1 FG%); Kyle Buggs, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.1 ppg, 41.7 FG%, 41.8 3PT%, 83.3 FT%); Hector Romero, F, 6-7/Sr. (20.2 ppg, 10.8 rpg, 49.3 FG%).
Top newcomers: Johnell Smith, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/JC); Billy McDade, G, 6-8/Fr.
Key loss: Corey Sanders, C (45.3 FG%).
Coach: Monte Towe (15-14, 1 year).
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: New Orleans.
Home court: Lakefront Arena (10,000).
Website: www.unoprivateers.com

4. North Texas, National Rank: 249

Outlook: UNT was the third-most improved team in the country last season, going from 4-24 in '00-01 to 15-14 in coach Johnny Jones' first year. Returning to lead the Mean Green is versatile Chris Davis, who led the league in scoring and the team in scoring, rebounding and assists—a first in school history. His supporting cast was the key in the team's improvement—Jermaine Green scored in double figures in every league game, and Will Smith was a consistent front-line performer. Plus, any of five newcomers could a be major factor this season. The team does need to improve its defense—it ranked last in the Sun Belt in scoring defense last season, allowing 78.2 points per game.
Key players: Chris Davis, G, 6-5/Sr. (22.5 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 47.9 FG%, 75.9 FT%); Jermaine Green, G, 6-8/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 44.7 FG%); Will Smith, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.5 rpg, 52.8 FG%).
Top newcomers: Michael DeGrate, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/JC); Ron Harris, F, 6-7/Fr.
Key losses: Kenneth Mangrum, G (47.3 FG%).
Coach: Johnny Jones (15-14, 1 year; 30-30 overall, 2 years).
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Denton, Texas.
Home court: The Super Pit (10,500).
Website: www.unt.edu/meangreen

5. South Alabama, National Rank: 251

Outlook: First-year coach John Pelphrey, a former Florida assistant, faces a major task in helping the team rebound from a season in which it had its fewest wins (seven) in school history. Four regulars return, and the backcourt is solid, but USA was 10th in the league in rebounding last season and has only one player over 6-6: 6-9 C Justin White. To make up for that, the Jaguars will use a more uptempo attack, which should suit two-time all-league G Demetrice Williams just fine. F Henry Williams will face more battles with bigger foes on the front line, especially with Adam Salow transferring to Northern Iowa, but the key will be the perimeter shooting of Larry Thompson and Benjamin Sormonte.
Key players: Larry Thompson, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 41.3 FG%, 39.0 3PT%); Demetrice Williams, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.5 ppg, 3.9 apg, 42.1 FG%, 37.0 3PT%, 75.7 FT%); Henry Williams, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 58.5 FG%).
Top newcomers: Malerick Bedden, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/JC); Chris Young, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Adam Salow, F (43.9 FG%, 40.6 3PT%); Jamaicus Ricks, G (38.7 3PT%).
Coach: John Pelphrey (1st year).
Last league title: 2001 (SB West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Mobile, Ala.
Home court: Mitchell Center (10,000).
Website: www.usajaguars.com

6. Denver, National Rank: 274

Outlook: The Pioneers were outgunned by the rest of the Sun Belt last year, and it will be a surprise if much changes this time around. Top scorer B.J. Pratt will return, but Denver lost most of its top performers from a team that was last in the league in shooting, shooting defense, rebounding and steals. C Steve Simmons, who was the league's second-leading rebounder in 2000-01, returns after an academic absence last season. Pratt should get some relief in the scoring column from a strong group of newcomers, the best of which is second-team NJCAA All-American Dusty Wadlington.
Key players: B.J. Pratt, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.9 ppg, 42.4 FG%, 35.7 3PT%, 83.9 FT%); Leslie Richardson, G, 6-3/Sr. (3.1 apg).
Top newcomers: Dusty Wadlington, G, 5-5/Sr. (transfer/JC); Brett Seger, G, 6-5/Fr.
Key losses: Wahhab Carter, F (11.3 rpg, 6.0 rpg, 53.0 FG%); Sherman Rochell, F (12.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 49.1 FG%, 66.7 3PT%).
Coach: Terry Carroll (8-20, 1 year).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Denver.
Home court: Magness Arena (7,200).
Website: www.denverpioneers.com

Sun Belt Schedules

Ark.-Little Rock
N22-24 Tipoff Tournament
N27 Central Arkansas
N30 Colorado State
D3 at Memphis
D7 Alcorn State
D10 at Minnesota
D14 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
D17 SE Missouri State
D19 Prairie View
D21 at Southern Miss
D28-29 Lobo Invitational
J4 Arkansas State
J9 Western Kentucky
J11 Middle Tennessee
J16 at North Texas
J19 at Denver
J25 at Arkansas State
J30 at South Alabama
F1 New Orleans
F3 Harding
F8 at Florida Int'l
F13 at Western Kentucky
F15 at Middle Tennessee
F20 New Mexico State
F22 La.-Lafayette
M1 Florida International

Arkansas State
N22 SE Missouri State
N25 at Samford
N29 Air Force
D2 Samford
D7 Lyon College
D12 Lincoln
D14 at Southern Miss.
D16 Ark.-Pine Bluff
D27-28 Gossner Foods Cl.
F18 at SW Missouri St.
F21 at Toledo
F27 at Utah State
J4 at Ark.-Little Rock
J9 Middle Tennessee
J11 Western Kentucky
J16 at Denver
J18 at North Texas
J20 Texas A&M-C.C.
J25 Ark.-Little Rock
J30 at New Orleans
F1 South Alabama
F6 at Florida Int'l
F13 at Middle Tennessee
F15 at Western Kentucky
F20 Louisiana-Lafayette
F22 New Mexico State
F27 Florida International

Denver
N23 at Wyoming
N26 at Montana
N30 Eastern Washington
D3 UMKC
D6-7 Cyclone Challenge
D11 at Colorado State
D14 Chicago State
D20-22 San Juan S.O.
D29 Drake
J2 Montana
J4 at Nebraska
J9 at Florida Int'l
J12 North Texas
J16 Arkansas State
J19 Ark.-Little Rock
J23 at South Alabama
J25 at New Orleans
J30 New Mexico State
F1 Louisiana-Lafayette
F5 at Western Kentucky
F8 Middle Tennessee
F13 at North Texas
F20 South Alabama
F23 New Orleans
F27 at New Mexico St.
M1 at La.-Lafayette

Florida Int'l
N23-24 Florida Int'l Trn.
N26 Florida Gulf Coast
N30 at Princeton
D3 George Washington
D6-7 Pizza Hut Classic
D14 Massachusetts
D18 at DePaul
D21 at Washington
D27-28 Florida Int'l Trn.
J2 Canisus
J5 North Texas
J9 Denver
J15 New Mexico State
J18 at La.-Lafayette
J30 at Western Kentucky
F1 at Middle Tennessee
F6 Arkansas State
F8 Ark.-Little Rock
F13 at South Alabama
F15 at New Orleans
F20 Western Kentucky
F22 Middle Tennessee
F27 at Arkansas State
M1 at Ark.-Little Rock

La.-Lafayette
N23 at Mississippi State
N27 at McNeese State
N30 Bethune-Cookman
D8 at Birm. Southern
D11 Louisiana College
D16 Alcorn State
D20-21 Golden Bear Classic
D27-29 Holiday Classic
J2 New Mexico State
J4 at Houston
J9 at South Alabama
J11 New Orleans
J18 Florida International
J23 Western Kentucky
J25 Middle Tennessee
J30 at North Texas
F1 Denver
F6 South Alabama
F8 New Orleans
F11 at Denver
F15 at New Mexico St.
F20 at Arkansas State
F22 at Ark.-Little Rock
F27 North Texas
*at Charlotte, N.C.

Middle Tennessee
N22 East Carolina
N25 at Alabama
N27 Tennessee-Martin
N30 at UNC Greensboro
D3 Tennessee Tech
D6 at Purdue
D6-7 Boilermaker Invitational
D16 Murray State
D18 Christian Brothers
D21 at Austin Peay
D27 Kennesaw State
D30 at Murray State
J4 Western Kentucky
J9 at Arkansas State
J11 at Ark.-Little Rock
J16 South Alabama
J18 New Orleans
J23 at New Mexico State
J25 at La.-Lafayette
J28 IUPU-Fort Wayne
F1 Florida International
F6 North Texas
F8 at Denver
F13 Arkansas State
F15 at Ark.-Little Rock
F22 at Florida Int'l
M1 at Western Kentucky

New Mexico State
N22-23 South Padre Cl.
N27 Colorado
N30 New Mexico
D3 Md.-Eastern Shore
D7 at UTEP
D15 at New Mexico
D18 UTEP
D21 at Texas Tech
D23 Texas-Arlington
D28 Western New Mexico
J4 Louisiana-Lafayette
J9 at New Orleans
J11 at South Alabama
J15 at Florida Int'l
J18 Texas-Pan American
J23 Middle Tennessee
J25 Western Kentucky
J30 at Denver
F1 North Texas
F6 New Orleans
F8 South Alabama
F10 Colo.-Colo. Springs
F15 at La.-Lafayette
F20 at Ark.-Little Rock
F22 at Arkansas State
F27 Denver
M1 North Texas

New Orleans
N27 Jackson State
N30 Rollins College
D2 Jacksonville
D5 Tulane
D7 SE Louisiana
D15 at Lipscomb
D17 at SW Texas State
D20-21 Hawaii Festival
D30 at LSU
J4 at South Alabama
J9 New Mexico State
J11 Louisiana-Lafayette
J16 at Western Kentucky
J18 at Middle Tennessee
J23 North Texas
J25 Denver
J30 Arkansas State
F1 at Ark.-Little Rock
F6 at New Mexico State
F8 at La.-Lafayette
F15 Florida International
F17 Florida
F20 at North Texas
F23 at Denver
F26 Texas A&M-C.C.
M1 South Alabama

North Texas
N22 at SW Missouri St.
N29 at SMU
D1 at Indiana
D6-7 Winthrop Shootout
D10 TCU
D16 St. Edward's
D21 at Tennessee Tech
D23 at Colorado
D28 Tex. A&M-Commerce
D30 at Baylor
J5 at Florida Int'l
J11 at Denver
J16 Ark.-Little Rock
J18 Arkansas State
J23 at New Orleans
J25 at South alabama
J30 Louisiana-Lafayette
F1 New Mexico State
F6 at Middle Tennessee
F8 Western Kentucky
F13 Denver
F20 New Orleans
F22 South Alabama
F27 at La.-Lafayette
M1 at New Mexico State

South Alabama
N22-24 Hisp. Coll. Fund
N27 Birmingham South.
N30 at Southern Miss
D4 North Georgia
D7 at Louisville
D18 at Georgia
D21 Marist
D28 Samford
D30 Mississippi State
J4 at New Orleans
J9 Louisiana-Lafayette
J11 New Mexico State
J16 at Middle Tennessee
J18 at Western Kentucky
J23 Denver
J25 North Texas
J30 Ark.-Little Rock
F1 at Arkansas State
F6 at La.-Lafayette
F8 at New Mexico State
F13 Florida International
F20 at Denver
F22 at North Texas
F25 William Carey
M1 New Orleans

Western Kentucky
N23 at Arizona
N26 Va. Commonwealth
D1 Auburn*
D3 at Evansville
D7 at Murray State
D15 Illinois State
D18 Southern Miss
D20 St. Francis (Pa.)
D23 at Pacific
D27-30 Rainbow Classic
J4 at Middle Tennessee
J9 at Ark.-Little Rock
J11 at Arkansas State
J16 New Orleans
J18 South Alabama
J25 at New Mexico State
J30 Florida International
F1 at Detroit
F3 Kentucky State
F5 Denver
F8 at North Texas
F13 Ark.-Little Rock
F15 Arkansas State
F19 at Florida Int'l
F22 Bracket Buster
F26 at La.-Lafayette
M1 Middle Tennessee
*at Nashville, Tenn.

Rank 15

Rick Nelson, The (Charleston, S.C.) Post and Courier

Southern

PREDICTIONS

North
1. East Tenn. State*
2. UNC Greensboro
3. Davidson
4. VMI
5. Western Carolina
6. Appalachian State

South
1. Georgia Southern
2. College of Charleston
3. Furman
4. Chattanooga
5. Wofford
6. The Citadel

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Guilherme Da Luz, Furman	6-2	208	Sr.
G	Jason Conley, VMI	6-5	175	So.
F	Zakee Wadood, East Tenn. St.	6-6	210	Jr.
F	James Maye, UNC Greensboro	6-6	215	Sr.
F	Kevin Martin, W. Carolina	6-5	170	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tony Mitchell, Coll. Charleston	5-11	170	So.
G	Julius Jenkins, Ga. Southern	6-2	175	Sr.
G	Mike Lenzly, Wofford	6-3	180	Sr.
F	Jerald Fields, East Tenn. St.	6-7	240	Jr.
F	Karim Souchu, Furman	6-6	215	Sr.

Player of the Year
Jason Conley, VMI

Newcomer of the Year
Brad Nuckles, F, East Tennessee State

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Peter Anderer, Davidson
Best playmaker: Guilherme Da Luz, Furman
Best dunker: Lee Nixon, Wofford
Best NBA prospect: Jason Conley, VMI
Most likely to blossom: Thomas Mobley, C. of C.
Best rebounder: Zakee Wadood, East Tenn. St.
Best defender: Jason Conley, VMI
Best game coach: Bob McKillop, Davidson
Most versatile: Jason Conley, VMI
Will take a charge: Tony Mitchell, C. of C.

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
North				
Davidson*	11	5	21	10
UNC Greensboro^	11	5	20	11
E. Tennessee State	11	5	18	10
Western Carolina	6	10	12	16
VMI	5	11	10	18
Appalachian State	5	11	10	18
South				
Coll. of Charleston	9	7	21	9
Georgia Southern	9	7	16	12
Chattanooga	9	7	16	14
The Citadel	8	8	17	12
Furman	7	9	17	14
Wofford	5	11	11	18

*Lost to Ohio State in NCAA South first round.
^Lost to Memphis in NIT first round

NORTH DIVISION

1. East Tennessee St., National Rank: 119

Outlook: The Buccaneers had the best starting five in the league last season, but a lack of depth doomed them to a string of late losses and another opening-round exit from the conference tournament. This season, on the heels of coach Ed DeChellis' best recruiting class, they should have greater flexibility and more scoring options. The newcomers are led by versatile F Brad Nuckles and Tim Smith, who will battle senior Ryan Lawson for the point guard job. Both must help cut down on turnovers. Dimeco Childress, named Southern Player of the Year by league coaches, is the only significant loss on a team with just three seniors. DeChellis, who flirted with the College of Charleston opening, was thinking championship when he decided to stay. He just might earn one this season.

Key players: Jerald Fields, F, 6-7/Jr. (13.5 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 2.0 bpg, 57.0 FG%, 42.9 3PT%); Ryan Lawson, G, 6-2/Sr. (93.2 FT%); Zakee Wadood, F, 6-6/Jr. (14.5 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 49.5 FG%).

Top newcomers: Brad Nuckles, F, 6-9/Fr.; Tim

Smith, G, 5-9/Fr.
Key loss: Dimeco Childress, G (17.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 80.2 FT%).
Coach: Ed DeChellis (85-82, 6 years).
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Johnson City, Tenn.
Home court: Memorial Center (13,000).
Website: www.etsubucs.com

2. UNC Greensboro, National Rank: 205

Outlook: The Spartans aren't a flashy team, but they have proven to be relentless, deep and fundamentally sound. Their success hinges on how well they replace their two best players—G Courtney Eldridge and F David Schuck. That's why coach Fran McCaffery's most important recruit is G Ray Bristow, who can score and handle the ball and was recruited by schools such as South Carolina and Auburn. Nearly everyone returns from last season's squad, which tied for the North Division title and advanced to the NIT. The backcourt looks solid with standout wing James Maye, Ronnie Taylor and Jay Joseph. Tizzo Johnson, who played in 28 games as a freshman, could fill the spot vacated by Schuck.
Key players: Luke Boythe, C, 6-7/Sr. (5.3 rpg, 62.4 FG%); Jay Joseph, G, 6-4/Jr. (10.8 ppg, 46.2 FG%, 41.1 3PT%); James Maye, F, 6-6/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 40.4 FG%, 35.0 3PT%, 77.3 FT%).
Top newcomer: Ray Bristow, G, 6-0/Fr.
Key losses: Courtney Eldridge, G (12.6 ppg, 6.1 apg, 42.7 FG%); David Schuck, F (13.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 48.6 FG%, 80.4 FT%).
Coach: Fran McCaffery (54-36, 3 years; 103-75 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1996 (Big South).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Greensboro, N.C.
Home court: Fleming Gym (2,320).
Website: www.uncgspartans.com

3. Davidson, National Rank: 210

Outlook: With four of its top six scorers from last season gone, including all-conference F Chris Pearson, Davidson immediately will test newcomers Ian Johnson, Jeff Severinghaus and two players used to taking coaches' orders—Brendan Winters, son of former NBA coach Brian Winters, and Matt McKillop, who is playing for his father, coach Bob McKillop. The biggest concern could be at point guard, where starter Michael Bree and backup Fernando Tonella are gone. But conference tournament hero Peter Anderer and versatile Wayne Bernard will help out in the backcourt. Davidson doesn't score a lot, but it is careful with the ball and plays good defense. With all the new faces, though, that might be good enough to finish only third in the North.
Key players: Peter Anderer, G, 6-1/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 44.9 FG%, 45.4 3PT%); Wayne Bernard, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 3.6 apg, 76.8 FT%); Nick Booker, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (5.1 rpg, 42.3 FG%).
Top newcomers: Ian Johnson, F, 6-9/Fr.; Brendan Winters, G, 6-4/Fr.
Key losses: Michael Bree, G (10.0 ppg, 4.2 apg, 35.7 3PT%); Chris Pearson, F (11.7 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 52.8 FG%); Martin Ides, C (5.7 rpg, 45.5 FG%).
Coach: Bob McKillop (205-171, 13 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Davidson, N.C. **Home court:** Belk Arena (5,700)
Website: www.davidson.edu

4. VMI, National Rank: 239

Outlook: It all starts and ends with Southern Player of the Year Jason Conley, who last season became the first freshman ever to lead the nation in scoring. Despite breaking his right foot—the same foot he broke in 1999—in the spring and having a screw surgically inserted in it, the 6-5 guard appears ready to go again. As spectacular as Conley is, he must get some help if the Keydets expect to avoid another year of conference poundings. After his squad finished last in team defense and rebounding, coach Bart Bellairs brought in 6-9 C Tadas Mankevicius to help Tim Allmond and Zach Batte inside. That also could take pressure off F Radee Skipworth. The Keydets won't win the division, but it sure will be fun to watch Conley again.
Key players: Jason Conley, G, 6-5/So. (29.3 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 81.8 FT%); Radee Skipworth, F, 6-6/Jr. (14.9 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 47.3 FG%).
Top newcomer: Tadas Mankevicius, C, 6-9/Fr.
Key losses: None.
Coach: Bart Bellairs (90-130, 8 years; 103-139 overall, 10 years).
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1977.
Site: Lexington, Va.
Home court: Cameron Hall (5,800).
Website: www.vmikeydets.com

5. Western Carolina, National Rank: 267

Outlook: Returning standout Kevin Martin averaged 22.1 points a game last season, good for 11th in the nation, but he was overshadowed by fellow freshman Jason Conley's year at VMI. Martin's return gives coach Steve Shurina hope the Catamounts can continue an upward trend after last season doubling their win total from 2000-01. They'll have to do it, however, without departed standouts Casey Rogers, Cory Largent and Willie Freeman. To help shore up a sometimes leaky defense, Shurina signed four players 6-6 or taller. One is 6-10 C David Berghoefer, who will play immediately. Shurina might have gotten a steal in skilled F Jared Outing, who will play on the wing.
Key players: Kevin Martin, G/F, 6-5/So. (22.1 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 48.4 FG%, 38.2 3PT%, 82.8 FT%); Rans Brempong, C, 6-8/Jr. (4.8 rpg, 50.4 FG%).
Top newcomers: David Berghoefer, C, 6-10/ Fr.; Jared Outing, F, 6-7/Fr.
Key losses: Willie Freeman, F (6.5 rpg, 50.8 FG%, 75.4 FT%); Cory Largent, F (13.8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 77.1 FT%); Casey Rogers, G (5.4 apg, 75.0 FT%).
Coach: Steve Shurina (18-41, 2 years).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Cullowhee, N.C.
Home court: Ramsey Center (8,000).
Website: www.catamountsports.com

6. Appalachian St., National Rank: 259

Outlook: Coach Houston Fancher is counting on veteran leadership to help his squad overcome the shaky shooting and porous defense that has plagued it the past two seasons. Juniors Josh Shehan and Graham Bunn will be expected to provide some of that leadership. There is depth in the backcourt, including returners Noah Brown and Matt Jones. Transfer Eric Williams, brother of Boston Celtic Shammond Williams, will get a chance at shooting guard. The Mountaineers should be a little bigger and stronger inside, though they suffered a setback when top recruit Donte Minter failed to qualify. There is talent here, but it'll be a hard road to .500.
Key players: Graham Bunn, G, 6-0/Jr. (52.1 FG%, 53.7 3PT%, 82.3 FT%); Josh Shehan, C, 6-8/Jr. (5.9 rpg, 53.5 FG%).
Top newcomers: Nathan Cranford, G, 6-2/Fr.; Eric Williams, G, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Jonathan Butler, G (40.8 FG%); Donald Payne, F (5.5 rpg, 47.0 FG%).
Coach: Houston Fancher (21-38, 2 years; 65-79 overall, 5 years).
Last league title: 2000.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Boone, N.C.
Home court: Holmes Convocation Center (8,325).
Website: www.goasu.com

SOUTH DIVISION

1. Georgia Southern, National Rank: 125

Outlook: The Eagles, who finished in a three-way tie for the South title last season, have the weapons to once again reach the top. All-conference pick Julius Jenkins returns at guard, as does all-freshman selection Terry Williams. Junior college transfer Prentice Mobley, who averaged 27.8 points last season, should add scoring punch. Only F Marcus Byams returns in the post, but coach Jeff Price brought in four newcomers, including transfer F Nick Berry, who are expected to help immediately. Swingman Sam Cox is back, Sean Olivier is ready after sitting out last season and transfer Courtney Joseph will compete for time at center. If the Eagles get production from the new guys and play defense, they should win the division.
Key players: Julius Jenkins, G, 6-2/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 42.7 FG%); Terry Williams, G, 6-1/So. (40.2 FG%, 39.9 3PT%).
Top newcomers: Nick Berry, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/JC); Prentice Mobley, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Kashien Latham, F (11.1 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 52.5 FG%); Sean Peterson, G (16.9 ppg, 6.6 apg, 45.3 FG%).
Coach: Jeff Price (47-39, 3 years; 183-91 overall, 9 years).
Last league title: 1992 (TAAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Statesboro, Ga.
Home court: Hanner Fieldhouse (4,378).
Website: www.georgiasoutherneagles.com

2. College of Charleston, National Rank: 190

Outlook: For the first time in 23 years, the Cougars will take the court without John Kresse, who retired in March after compiling a 560-143 record at Charleston. New coach Tom Herrion, an assistant at Virginia the last four seasons, has promised a fast-paced offense, which pleases players on what could be the league's most athletic team but worries fans accustomed to winning with stifling defense. Among the returners are G Tony Mitchell, who was named to the league's all-freshman team, and F Bernard Jackson, who could play a key role if he has recovered from last season's ACL tear. Junior college transfers Zeke Johnson and Marcus Johnson will get immediate playing time. If Herrion can breathe life into the offense while keeping the defense stingy, the Cougars will contend again.
Key players: Mike Benton, C, 6-9/Jr. (5.9 rpg, 51.3 FG%); Tony Mitchell, G, 5-11/So. (39.7 3PT%, 81.4 FT%).
Top newcomers: Marcus Johnson, G, 6-4/Jr. (trans-

fer/JC); Zeke Johnson, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Jeff Bolton, G (18.2 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 41.9 FG%, 35.8 3PT%, 80.7 FT%); Leighton Bowie, F (12.1 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 52.8 FG%, 76.6 FT%).
Coach: Tom Herrion (1st year).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Charleston, S.C.
Home court: John Kresse Arena (3,500).
Website: cougars.cofc.edu

3. Furman, National Rank: 221

Outlook: Coach Larry Davis has been building toward this season for four years. His core group of seniors has been together since their freshman year, and last season they gave a glimpse of their potential with a surprising run to the league tournament title game. Senior G Guilherme Da Luz paced the conference in assists last season and can post up, drive or shoot from outside. Senior F Karim Souchu, last year's top scorer, also is back. F Kenny Zeigler bolsters an undersized but quick frontcourt that also includes improving C Paco Gonzalez. If Cedrick Price (6-9, 245) recovers from last season's knee injury, he'll provide size. The Paladins' biggest worry is finding someone to replace Anthony Thomas, one of the nation's top 3-point shooters. The top candidate appears to be redshirt freshman G/F Jason Patterson, a 6-5 lefty who added 15 pounds in the offseason. If all of these pieces fall into place, the Paladins will contend for the division crown.
Key players: Guilherme Da Luz, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 6.6 apg, 40.0 FG%); Karim Souchu, F, 6-6/Sr. (14.8 pg, 5.3 rpg); Kenny Zeigler, F, 6-5/Sr. (5.6 rpg, 42.3 FG%)
Top newcomers: Robby Bostain, G/F, 6-3/Fr.; Tony Carter, G, 6-0/Fr.
Key loss: Anthony Thomas, G/F (14.5 ppg, 47.1 FG%, 45.1 3PT%, 80.6 FT%).
Coach: Larry Davis (62-84, 5 years).
Last league title: 1991 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1980.
Site: Greenville, S.C.
Home court: Timmons Arena (5,000).
Website: www.furmanpaladins.com

4. Chattanooga, National Rank: 236

Outlook: The Mocs are paying a pile of money—at least $350,000 this season—to new coach Jeff Lebo in hopes of a return to their glory days. That will be a difficult task in Lebo's first year. Chattanooga lost four starters, including big scorer Toot Young. The lone returning starter is Nick Benson, the team's leading rebounder and No. 4 scorer last season. In addition to finding new scoring options, the Mocs must adjust to Lebo's more controlled style. Still, there is talent. Swingman Tim Parker, one of five seniors, could be an all-conference candidate. G/F Ashley Champion, the 2002 Tennessee JC Player of the Year and a former Class AA Mr. Basketball, is one of five players signed by Lebo. JC transfer Ray Trowell is a small but quick point guard who can help fill the void left by Clyde McCully. But with all the changes, the Mocs might need this year just to get acquainted.
Key players: Nick Benson, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 43.9 FG%); Tim Parker, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (41.1 FG%, 35.3 3PT%, 84.2 FT%).
Top newcomers: Ashley Champion, G, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/JC); Ray Trowell, G, 5-9/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Neil Ashby, F (11.6 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 49.6 FG%); Clyde McCully, G (10.4 ppg, 4.8 apg, 46.0 FG%); Toot Young, G (12.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 38.1 3PT%).
Coach: Jeff Lebo (1st year; 75-43 overall, 4 years).
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Chattanooga, Tenn.
Home court: McKenzie Arena (11,218).
Website: www.gomocs.com

5. Wofford, National Rank: 244

Outlook: Thirteen-year assistant Mike Young has taken the coaching reins from Richard Johnson, which should mean a smooth transition at the top. Young inherits one of the league's top backcourts, which includes double-digit scorers Lee Nixon and two-time all-conference PG Mike Lenzly. The Terriers faded after a quick start last season, but they should have improved depth. Freshman Byron Fields and Edmond Davis, a former LSU player, will back up Lenzly and allow him to play some at shooting guard. PF Grant Sterley also is back. Another key will be the play at center, where Sam Daniels takes over for Kenny Hastie.
Key players: Mike Lenzly, G, 6-3/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 3.6 apg, 76.4 FT%); Lee Nixon, G, 6-4/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 40.1 FG%); Justin Stephens, G, 6-2/So. (12.4 ppg, 3.2 apg, 76.4 FT%).
Top newcomer: Byron Fields, G, 6-2/Fr.
Key loss: Kenny Hastie, C (7.7 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 42.3 FG%).
Coach: Mike Young (1st year).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Spartanburg, S.C.
Home court: Benjamin Johnson Arena (3,500).
Website: www.wofford.edu/athletics

6. The Citadel, National Rank: 263

Outlook: There isn't a team in the league that will feel the loss of departing players as much as the Bulldogs, who lost three 1,000-point scorers in G Travis Cantrell, F Alan Puckett and C Cliff Washburn from back-to-back winning campaigns. The Citadel has six seniors, including F Michael Joseph, the team's most improved player last year. Newcomers expected to contribute include PG Kevin Hammack and sharpshooting F Matt Davis. The defense should be strong, as usual, but if the team doesn't get firepower from its returning players and newcomers, it likely will be fighting to stay out of the cellar.
Key players: Michael Joseph, F, 6-4/Sr. (12.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 46.1 FG%, 40.5 3PT%, 76.5 FT%); Romas Krywonis, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.2 rpg, 43.1 FG%); Max Mombollet, G, 6-8/Jr. (4.3 rpg, 52.2 FG%, 75.4 FT%)
Top newcomers: Matt Davis, G, 6-5/Fr.; Kevin Hammack, G, 6-1/Fr.
Key losses: Travis Cantrell, G (16.6 ppg, 89.3 FT%); Cliff Washburn, C (10.6 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 46.2 FG%).
Coach: Pat Dennis (122-154, 10 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Charleston, S.C.
Home court: McAlister Field House (6,000).
Website: citadelsports.com

Southern Schedules

Appalachian State

N22	Mars Hill
N25	Charlotte
N30	at South Carolina
D4	at Gardner-Webb
D7	at Marquette
D10	Greensboro College
D17	SMU
D22	at Georgia
D30	at James Madison
J2	Bluefield
J6	East Tenn. St.
J11	UNC Greensboro
J13	at Georgia Southern
J15	Gardner-Webb
J18	at Chattanooga
J21	at Western Carolina
J25	Furman
J27	at VMI
F1	The Citadel
F3	Western Carolina
F8	at Davidson
F10	VMI
F15	Col. of Charleston
F17	at Wofford
F22	Davidson
F24	at UNC Greensboro
M1	at East Tenn. State

Coll. of Charleston

N22	Charleston Southern
N24	Webber
N27-30	Gr. Alaska Shoot.
D7	USC Aiken
D12	at Central Florida
D15	at Stetson
D20	American
D23	UNC Wilmington
D29-30	St. Farm Cl.
J2	at Vanderbilt
J6	at Wofford
J11	Chattanooga
J13	at East Tenn. State
J18	Wofford
J20	Furman
J25	VMI
J27	at The Citadel
F1	at Georgia Southern
F3	UNC Greensboro
F8	at Furman
F10	The Citadel
F15	at Appalachian St.
F17	Western Carolina
F22	at Chattanooga
F25	at Davidson
M1	Georgia Southern

Chattanooga

N22	at Samford
N24	at UAB
N27	Tenn. Wesleyan
N30	at Bradley
D2	at Illinois State
D14	Milligan College
D16	Fuhrman
D18	Kent State
D21	Samford
D29-30	Dr Pepper Classic
J2	at Cincinnati
J6	at UNC Greensboro
J11	at Col. of Charleston
J13	Davidson
J18	Appalachian State
J20	at Wofford
J25	The Citadel
J27	at Furman
F1	East Tenn. State
F3	Georgia Southern
F8	at The Citadel
F10	Wofford
F17	at VMI
F22	College of Charleston
F24	at Georgia Southern
M1	at Western Carolina

The Citadel

N22	Webber Int.
N25	at Navy
N27	at Maryland
D2	Charleston South.
D5	High Point
D9	Oglethorpe
D18	Southwestern
D21	So. Carolina State
D30	at Cent. Florida
J2	at South Carolina
J5	at Davidson
J7	Emanuel
J11	at East Tenn. State
J13	Wofford
J18	Western Carolina
J21	at Georgia South.
J25	at Chattanooga
J27	Col. of Charleston
F1	at Appalachian St.
F3	Furman
F8	UT-Chattanooga
F10	at Col. of Charleston
F15	UNC Greensboro
F17	at Furman
F22	Georgia South.
F24	VMI
M1	at Wofford

Davidson

N25	at Duke
N30	Washington & Jeff.
D5	James Madison
D7	Charlotte
D10	St. Bonaventure
D21	Washington & Jeff.
D28-30	Fiesta Bowl Cla.
J2	at Navy
J4	East Tennessee State
J5	The Citadel
J8	at North Carolina
J11	Western Carolina
J13	at Chattanooga
J18	Furman
J21	at VMI
J25	UNC Greensboro
J27	at East Tenn. State
F1	at Western Carolina
F3	at Wofford
F8	Appalachian State
F11	at UNC Greensboro
F18	at Georgia Southern
F22	at Appalachian State
F25	Coll. of Charleston
M1	VMI

East Tenn. State

N22	Guilford
N24	at South Carolina
N30	at UNC Wilmington
D4	at Vanderbilt
D7	UNC Asheville
D14	Virginia-Wise
D17	at Virginia
D20	Coastal Carolina
D29-28	S. Fla. Tour.
J2	Jun. Johnson City
J6	at Appalachian St.
J11	The Citadel
J13	Col. of Charleston
J18	at VMI
J20	UNC Greensboro
J25	Davidson
J27	at Wofford
F1	at Chattanooga
F4	VMI
F8	at Ga. Southern
F10	Western Carolina
F15	at Davidson
F17	at UNC Greensboro
F22	at Western Carolina
F24	Furman
M1	Appalachian State

Furman

N22	James Madison
N26	St. Mary's
N30	Lenoir-Rhyne
D3	at Georgia State
D8	at Memphis
D16	at Chattanooga
D19	U. of the South
D22	at Louisville
D29-29	Poinsettia Cl.
J2	Georgia State
J7	at Ga. Southern
J11	Wofford
J14	Western Carolina
J18	at Davidson
J20	at Col. of Charleston
J25	at Appalachian St.

(Southern continued)

J28 Chattanooga
F1 VMI
F3 at The Citadel
F8 Col. of Charleston
F11 Ga. Southern
F18 The Citadel
F22 at Wofford
F25 at East Tenn. State
F27 UNC Greensboro

Georgia Southern

N26 at Vanderbilt
N30 North Georgia
D3 at Savannah State
D5 at Mercer
D8 Air Force
D16 Spring Hill
D21 Wagner
D30 Savannah State
J1 at Air Force
J7 Furman
J11 at VMI
J13 Appalachian State
J18 at UNC Greensboro
J21 The Citadel
J25 at Wofford
J27 at Western Carolina
F1 Coll. of Charleston
F3 at Chattanooga
F8 East Tenn. State
F11 at Furman
F15 Wofford
F18 Davidson
F22 at The Citadel
F24 Chatttanooga
M1 at C. of Charleston

UNC Greensboro

N18-29 Preseason NIT
N25 American
N30 Middle Tennessee
D3 at Alabama
D7 at West Virginia
D14 Elon
D19 at Delaware
D21 at Norfolk State
D28 at Illinois
D31 at High Point
J2 Guilford College
J6 Chattanooga
J11 at Appalachian St.
J13 VMI
J18 Georgia Southern
J20 East Tenn. State
J25 West. Carolina
J28 at Davidson
F1 Wofford
F3 at Col. of Charleston
F8 at West. Carolina
F11 Davidson
F15 at The Citadel
F17 East Tenn. State
F22 at VMI
F24 Appalachian State
F27 at Furman

VMI

N26 Liberty
N25 at Tennessee
D1 at St. Francis (Pa.)
D5 at Virginia Tech
D7 Virginia-Wise
D10 at Liberty
D14 Eastern Mennonite
D20 Mary Washington
D28-29 Spider Invit.
D31 at Georgetown
J5 at Western Carolina
J11 Georgia Southern
J13 at UNC Greensboro
J18 East Tenn. State
J21 Davidson
J25 at Col. of Charleston
J27 Appalachian State
F1 at Furman
F4 at East Tenn. State
F8 Wofford
F10 at Appalachian St.
F15 Western Carolina
F17 Chattanooga
F22 UNC Greensboro
F24 at The Citadel
M1 at Davidson

Wofford

N22 at Auburn
N24 at Clemson
N26 Emmanuel
D2 at Virginia Tech
D4 Toccoa Falls
D7 Virginia Intermont
D14 at West Virginia
D21 King
D29 at NC State
J2 at Virginia
J6 Col. of Charleston
J11 at Furman
J13 at The Citadel
J18 at Col. of Charleston
J20 Chattanooga
J25 Geogia Southern
J27 East Tenn. State
F1 at UNC Greensboro
F3 Davidson
F8 at VMI
F10 at Chattanooga
F15 at Georgia Southern
F17 Appalachian State
F22 Furman
F24 West. Carolina
M1 The Citadel

Western Carolina

N22 Coastal Carolina
N23 Toccoa Falls
N30 Southeastern Col.
D2 at UNC Asheville
D4 Reinhardt
D7 at Liberty
D10 North Greenville
D18 at West Virginia
D20 at Marshall
D23 at Tennessee
D31 at DePaul
J5 VMI
J11 at Davidson
J13 at Furman
J18 at The Citadel
J21 Appalachian State
J25 at UNC Greensboro
J27 Georgia Southern
F1 Davidson
F3 at Appalachian St.
F8 UNC Greensboro
F10 at East Tenn. State
F15 at VMI
F17 at Col. of Charleston
F22 East Tenn. State
F24 Wofford
M1 Chattanooga

Rank 16

By Rob Demovsky, Green Bay Press-Gazette

Horizon

PREDICTIONS

1. Wis.-Milwaukee*
2. Butler
3. Illinois-Chicago
4. Detroit
5. Loyola (Ill.)
6. Wright State
7. Wis.-Green Bay
8. Cleveland State
9. Youngstown State

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	David Bailey, Loyola (Ill.)	5-8	165	Sr.
G	Cedric Banks, Illinois-Chicago	6-2	165	Jr.
G	Brandon Miller, Butler	6-0	170	Sr.
F	Clay Tucker, Wis.-Milwaukee	6-3	195	Sr.
F	Seth Doliboa, Wright State	6-7	210	Jr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Willie Green, Detroit	6-4	188	Sr.
G	Ronnie Jones, Wis.-Milwaukee	5-9	165	Sr.
G	Martell Bailey, Illinois-Chicago	5-10	170	Jr.
F	Joel Cornette, Butler	6-10	230	Sr.
C	Greg Babcock, Wis.-Green Bay	6-10	235	Sr.

Player of the Year

David Bailey, Loyola (Ill.)

Newcomer of the Year

Jose Winston, G, Wis.-Milwaukee

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Darnell Archey, Butler
Best playmaker: David Bailey, Loyola
Best dunker: Willie Green, Detroit
Best NBA prospect: Cedrick Banks, Ill.-Chicago
Most likely to blossom: Greg Babcock, Wis.-GB
Best rebounder: Terrell Riggs, Detroit
Best defender: Joel Cornette, Butler
Best game coach: Perry Watson, Detroit
Most versatile: Clay Tucker, Wis.-Milwaukee
Will take a charge: Brandon Miller, Butler

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Butler^	12	4	26	6
Detroit^^	11	5	18	13
Wis.-Milwaukee	11	5	16	13
Wright State	9	7	17	11
Loyola (Ill.)	9	7	17	13
Illinois-Chicago*	8	8	20	14
Cleveland State	6	10	12	16
Wis.-Green Bay	4	12	9	21
Youngstown State	2	14	5	23

*Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA West first round.
^Lost to Syracuse in NIT second round.
^^Lost to Dayton in NIT opening round.

1. Wisconsin-Milwaukee, National Rank: 76

Outlook: The Panthers are the favorites despite having finished more than two games over .500 in league play just once—last season. They have been building toward this the last four years. After successive 15-victory seasons, UWM posted a 16-win season last year that included an 11-5 conference mark under first-year coach Bruce Pearl. Among the 11 victories was a road win over Butler, a Top 25 team at the time. G Clay Tucker's buzzer-beating jumper made national highlight shows, put the Panthers back on the basketball map and helped earn him league first-team honors. G Ronnie Jones might be the league's most explosive scorer. Colorado transfer Jose Winston adds to an already strong backcourt. The only hole may be in the middle, where 6-6 F Adrian Tigert might miss the entire season because of a knee injury. But that shouldn't hurt too much in a league that lacks solid big men.
Key players: Clay Tucker, G, 6-3/Sr. (17.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 43.6 FG%, 71.0 FT%); Ronnie Jones, G, 5-9/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 44.0 FG%, 43.3 3PT%); Jason Frederick, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 38.4 3PT%).
Top newcomers: Jose Winston, G, 5-11/Sr. (transfer, Colorado); Rob Sanders, F, 6-6/So. (transfer, Toledo).
Key losses: None.
Coach: Bruce Pearl (16-13, 1 year).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Milwaukee. **Home court:** Klotsche Center (5,000).
Website: www.uwmpanthers.com

2. Butler, National Rank: 100

Outlook: The Bulldogs have six straight postseason berths, but they'll start this season with the sour taste of an NCAA tourney snub. Butler's 26 wins last year broke the single-season school record, and the Bulldogs ranked in the Top 25 for the first time in 53 years, but their lost to Wisconsin-Green Bay in the first round of the conference tournament relegated them to the NIT. Coach Todd Lickliter will have a tougher time in Year 2. He lost PG Thomas Jackson and league Player of the Year F Rylan Hainje. The Bulldogs will have the luxury of the same coach in consecutive seasons for the first time in four years. Hot-shooting G Brandon Miller and big man Joel Cornette will help the Bulldogs contend for another league title, but they'll have a hard time getting Butler back in the Top 25.
Key players: Brandon Miller, G, 6-0/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 3.0 apg, 36.4 3FG%, 81.6 FT%); Joel Cornette, F, 6-10/Sr. (7.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 55.3 FG%).
Top newcomers: Andy Grunst, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jeff James, F, 6-6/Fr.; Avery Sheets, G, 6-0/Fr.
Key losses: Rylan Hainje, F, (15.2 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 49.5 FG%, 40.4 3PT%); Thomas Jackson, G, (13.6 ppg, 4.5 apg, 47.1 FG%); Scott Robisch, C, (45.9 FG%, 3.9 rpg).
Coach: Todd Lickliter (26-6, 1 year).
Last league title: 2002.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Indianapolis. **Home court:** Hinkle Fieldhouse (11,043). **Website:** www.butlersports.com

3. Illinois-Chicago, National Rank: 134

Outlook: The Flames' run to the NCAA Tournament last season was surprising only because it happened so soon. Coach Jimmy Collins' class of newcomers last year had potential, but few thought it would get results so soon. Led by first-year Gs Cedrick Banks and Martell Bailey—the team's only returning

starters—UIC won 20 games and regained the respect of the league after two down years. Banks and Bailey combined for nearly 21 points, eight rebounds and seven assists per game last season. As long as they are around, UIC will be a title contender. The Flames will get a boost inside from the return of 6-9 Joe Scott, a two-year starter who missed last season because of a knee injury. They'll miss the bulk that Thor Solverson and Cory Little gave them inside and the spark from fiery G Jordan Kardos. But Collins recruited another crop of talented in-state players and might have the most athletic roster in the league.

Key players: Cedrick Banks, G, 6-2/Jr. (13.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 44.8 FG%, 36.1 3PT%,); Martell Bailey, G, 5-10/Jr., (7.0 ppg, 4.8 apg).
Top newcomers: Elliott Poole, F, 6-7/Fr.
Key losses: Jordan Kardos, G, (12.3 ppg, 45.4 FG%, 46.0 3PT%, 82.7 FT%); Cory Little, F, (7.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 43.4 FG%, 78.4 FT%).
Coach: Jimmy Collins (86-92, 6 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1998 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** UIC Pavilion (8,000).
Website: www.uicflames.com

4. Detroit, National Rank: 140

Outlook: Only the Titans have rivaled Butler for supremacy in the Horizon the last five seasons. Detroit's NIT appearance last year was its fourth postseason berth in five years. The Titans had the nation's longest homecourt winning streak, 39, until losing to Wis.-Green Bay in February. Only two starters, F Terrell Riggs and G Willie Green, return, but coach Perry Watson again has loaded his roster with Detroit-area talent. Watson easily is the best coach in the conference because he takes athletic players and turns them into hard-nosed, smart players without taking away their talents. No one plays tougher halfcourt defense than the Titans. Green will have to carry a bigger scoring load and shoot better than the 28 percent he shot last year from 3-point range. If point guard wasn't such a huge question, the Titans would be picked to finish higher.
Key players: Willie Green, G, 6-4/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 43.1 FG%); Terrell Riggs, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 45.8 FG%).
Top newcomers: Rulon Harris, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/JC); Solomon Edwards, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/Wagner).
Key losses: Greg Grays, G, (17.8 ppg, 40.9 FG%, 37.7 3PT%, 84.4 FG%); Marc Mazur, C, (5.3 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 53.6 FG%).
Coach: Perry Watson (166-101, 9 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Detroit. **Home court:** Calihan Hall (8,837).
Website: www.detroittitans.com

5. Loyola (Ill.), National Rank: 165

Outlook: The Ramblers have the most exciting player in the league in David Bailey, a 5-8 speedster. He runs the Ramblers, and he loves to run. He played more under control last season, and the Ramblers went from seven wins to 17-13. They lost the tournament title game to rival UIC, where Bailey's younger brother, Martell, plays. Coach Larry Farmer has returned some of the excitement to Loyola basketball. Last year was the school's best since 1984-85. The frontcourt will be the biggest question mark. Senior Corey Minnifield is the only experienced player returning. If Farmer can find some more help for Bailey, the Ramblers could have success.
Key players: David Bailey, G, 5-8/Sr. (20.4 ppg); Vasilis Tsimpliaridis, G, 6-3/Sr. (95.5 FT%).
Top newcomers: Paul McMillan, F, 6-6/Jr.; G, Terrance Whithers, G, 5-10/Fr.
Key losses: Ryan Blankson, F (10.0 rpg, 49.2 FG%).
Coach: Larry Farmer (47-66, 4 years; 142-143 overall, 10 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1987 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** Joseph J. Gentile Center (5,200). **Website:** www.loyolaramblers.com

6. Wright State, National Rank: 171

Outlook: The Raiders' best chance to challenge for a title might have been last year, but instead they put together another frustrating season. At 17-11, they were just good enough to tease fans. Under coach Ed Schilling, they like to score, but they've lost too much of their punch. Gone are G Jesse Deister and F Cain Doliboa, who combined for 31 points per game. Doliboa's younger brother, Seth, will have more weight on his shoulders this season; he's the only proven scorer the Raiders have. They have won 35 games the last two years, but at the mid-major level that will get you nothing but frustration.
Key players: Seth Doliboa, F, 6-7/Jr. (15.7 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 47.9 FG%); Vernard Hollins, G, 6-2/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 4.4 apg, 46.8 FG%).
Top newcomers: Trent Vaughn, F, 6-4/Jr.; Lloyd Walls, C, 6-9/Jr.
Key losses: Cain Doliboa, F, (18.7 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 47.9 FG%, 47.3 3PT%, 86.4 FT%); Jesse Deister, G, (13.4 ppg, 49.7 FG%, 35.7 3PT%, 91.8 FT%).
Coach: Ed Schilling (65-75, 5 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Dayton, Ohio. **Home court:** Ervin J. Nutter Center (11,000). **Website:** www.wsuraiders.com

7. Wisconsin-Green Bay, National Rank: 195

Outlook: Few people were surprised when Mike Heideman was fired as coach after the Phoenix finished 9-21, its third straight losing year. The rebuilding job for new coach Tod Kowalczyk, a former Marquette assistant, might not be as tough as most. He'll inherit two former Wisconsin prep players of the year, transfers Marshall Williams and Julian Swartz. Two others who sat out last season, F Mike King and G Brandon Hansen, were Heideman recruits. Kowalczyk added a badly needed point guard in Terry Parker Jr. There's additional excitement about the new $47 million, 10,000-seat Resch Center. When Heideman left, so did the halfcourt, grind-it-out style. Kowalczyk will use a more uptempo, quick-hit offense while maintaining high defensive standards. In a league that lacks big men, UWGB has the best in C Greg Babcock.
Key players: Aaron Jessup, G, 6-5/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 59.3 FG%); Greg Babcock, C, 6-10/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 6.8 rpg. 66.3 FG%).
Top newcomers: Marshall Williams, G, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/NC State); Julian Swartz, F, 6-6/So. (transfer/Wisconsin).
Key losses: DeVante Blanks, G, (12.7 ppg, 42.0 FG%).
Coach: Tod Kowalczyk (1st year).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Green Bay. **Home court:** Resch Center (10,000). **Website:** www.uwgb.edu/athletics.

8. Cleveland State, National Rank: 229

Outlook: Theo Dixon and Jamaal Harris were supposed to lead the Vikings into contention last season. Instead, they had horrible shooting years as seniors in a disappointing 12-16 season. Coach Rollie Massimino was a high-profile hire six years ago, but he hasn't produced a league title. A new athletic director was hired over the summer, and the end could be near for Massimino. He doesn't return a double-figure scorer and hasn't been able to get his teams to play smart. The Vikings' offense has consisted of taking the first decent shot and using athletic ability to crash the boards. It hasn't worked. It will be a surprise if the Vikings contend this year.
Key players: Jermaine Robinson, G, 6-2/Jr.; Tahric Gosley, F, 6-8/Sr. (5.1 rpg, 49.7 FG%).
Top newcomers: T.J. Darr, G, 6-2/So.; Amadou Koundoul, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Theo Dixon, F, (14.7 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 42.1 FG%, 77.0 FT%), Jamaal Harris, G, (15.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 41.6 FG%).
Coach: Rollie Massimino (81-91, 6 years; 507-369 overall, 29 years; 20-10 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1993 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Cleveland. **Home court:** Henry J. Goodman Arena (13,810). **Website:** www.csuvikings.com

9. Youngstown State, National Rank: 294

Outlook: In 2001-02, Youngstown State's first season since leaving the Mid-Continent Conference, the Penguins found they had neither the size nor athletic ability to compete in the Horizon League. The Penguins were winless on the road and lost a school-record 23 games. Coach John Robic built a solid program that was competitive in the Mid-Con but probably won't be competitive in this league for another couple of years. Doug Underwood and Brian Radakovich played in every game last year as true freshmen and will be the backbone of this team.
Key players: Doug Underwood, G, 6-3/So. (10.4 ppg); TeJay Anderson, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.7 rpg, 57.5 FG%); Brian Radakovich, F, 6-7/So. (4.5 rpg, 43.6 FG%).
Top newcomers: Derrick Harris, G, 6-2/Fr.; Jonathan Mends, G, 5-11/Fr.
Key losses: Ryan Patton, G, (14.6 ppg, 81.1 FT%); Stephen Flores, G (4.5 rpg, 42.5 FG%).
Coach: John Robic (36-50, 4 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Youngstown, Ohio. **Home court:** Beeghly Center (6,500). **Website:** www.ysu.edu/sports

Horizon Schedules

Butler

N22	at IUPU-Fort Wayne	D5	at Indiana State	J9	Loyola (Ill.)	F1	Cleveland State	F27	Wis.-Green Bay	D8	at Michigan State	J9	at Youngstown St.
N26	Wayne State	D7	at Evansville	J11	Detroit	F8	Illinois-Chicago	M1	Wis.-Milwaukee	D14	Kent State	J11	Wright State
N30	Ball State	D10	Bradley	J16	at Wright State	F13	at Loyola (Ill.)	**Cleveland State**		D18	IUPUI	J16	at Illinois-Chicago
		D14	at Miami (Ohio)	J18	Youngstown State	F15	at Detroit	N27	at Duquesne	D21	Boston University	J18	at Loyola (Ill.)
		D21	Saint Louis	J23	at Wis.-Green Bay	F20	Wright State	N30	California	D28	Bowling Green	J25	Detroit
		D27-30	Rainbow Classic	J25	at Wis.-Milwaukee	F22	at Youngstown St.	D4	at Akron	J2	Wis.-Green Bay	J28	at St. Bonaventure
		J4	at Illinois-Chicago	J30	at Duke	F24	at Cleveland State	D6	Md.-Eastern Shore	J4	Wis.-Milwaukee	F1	at Butler

(Horizon continued)

F6 at Wis.-Green Bay
F8 at Wis.-Milwaukee
F13 Youngstown State
F15 at Wright State
F20 Illinois-Chicago
F22 Loyola (Ill.)
F24 Butler
M1 at Detroit

Detroit

N23 Bowling Green
N27 Buffalo
D2 at Western Michigan
D7 Hillsdale
D14 at Toledo
D17 at Western Illinois
D20-21 Golden Bear Cl.
D28 at Wyoming
J2 Wis.-Milwaukee
J4 Wis.-Green Bay
J9 at Wright State
J11 at Butler
J16 Loyola (Ill.)
J18 Illinois-Chicago
J23 at Youngstown St.
J25 at Cleveland State
F1 Western Kentucky
F6 at Wis.-Milwaukee
F8 at Wis.-Green Bay
F13 Wright State
F15 Butler
F20 at Loyola
F22 Bracket Buster
F27 Youngstown State
M1 Cleveland State

Illinois-Chicago

N22 at Evansville
N24 Eastern Illinois
N26 Richmond
N30 at Illinois State
D7 at Indiana
D14 Southern Illinois
D16 Samford
D21 at Wis.-Green Bay
D23 at Indiana State
D28 at Northern Illinois
J4 Butler
J9 Wis.-Milwaukee
J16 Cleveland State
J18 at Detroit
J22 Loyola (Ill.)
J25 at Youngstown St.
J29 at Wright State
F1 Wis.-Green Bay
F5 Wright State
F8 at Butler
F10 Detroit
F13 at Wis.-Milwaukee
F15 IUPU-Fort Wayne
F20 at Cleveland State
F22 Bracket Buster
F27 at Loyola (Ill.)
M1 Youngstown State

Loyola (Ill.)

N22 at Loyola Marymt.
N25 Bradley
N27 at Northern Illinois
D3 at Texas A&M-C.C.
D7 Valparaiso
D10 UMKC
D14 at Belmont
D17 at Michigan State
D21 at Wis.-Milwaukee
D27 at Charlotte
D28 Louisiana-Lafayette*
D29 Colorado*
J2 Youngstown State
J4 Wright State
J9 at Butler
J11 at Wis.-Green Bay
J16 at Detroit
J18 Cleveland State
J23 at Illinois-Chicago
J25 at IUPU-Fort Wayne
F1 Wis.-Milwaukee
F6 at Youngstown St.
F8 at Wright State
F13 Butler
F15 Wis.-Green Bay
F20 Detroit
F22 at Cleveland State
F27 Illinois-Chicago
*at Charlotte

Wisconsin-Green Bay

N21-24 Top of World Cl.
N30 Wisconsin
D3 Chicago State
D7 Kansas State
D9 at Missouri
D14 at Weber State
D21 Illinois-Chicago
D23 at Northern Iowa
D27-28 Oneida Classic
J2 at Cleveland State
J4 at Detroit
J7 at Eastern Michigan
J11 Loyola (Ill.)
J18 Wis.-Milwaukee
J23 Butler
J25 Wright State
J29 at Youngstown St.
F1 at Illinois-Chicago
F6 Cleveland State
F8 Detroit
F15 at Loyola (Ill.)
F19 Youngstown State
F23 Northern Michigan
F27 at Butler
M1 at Wright State

Wisconsin-Milwaukee

N23 at Wisconsin
N26 Mississippi Valley St
N29-D1 Tulane Tour.
D6-7 Pizza Hut Classic
D11 Valparaiso
D14 at Miss. Valley St.
D17 Wis.-Parkside
D21 Loyola (Ill.)
D28 at Georgia
J2 at Detroit
J4 at Cleveland State
J9 Illinois-Chicago
J11 Youngstown State
J14 at Chicago State
J18 at Wis.-Green Bay
J23 Wright State
J25 Butler
F1 at Loyola (Ill.)
F6 Detroit
F8 Cleveland State
F13 Illinois-Chicago
F15 at Youngstown St.
F22 Bracket Buster
M1 at Butler

Wright State

N23 Akron
N30 Miami of Ohio
D4 Morehead State
D7 at Ball State
D11 Toledo
D14 South Florida
D17-18 Minardi Classic
D30 at Santa Clara
J4 at Loyola (Ill.)
J9 Detroit
J11 at Cleveland State
J13 at Youngstown St.
J16 at Butler
J23 at Wis.-Milwaukee
J25 at Wis.-Green Bay
J29 Illinois-Chicago
F1 Youngstown State
F5 at Illinois-Chicago
F8 Loyola (Ill.)
F13 at Detroit
F15 Cleveland State
F20 at Butler
F22 IUPU-Fort Wayne
F27 Wis.-Milwaukee
M1 Wis.-Green Bay

Youngstown State

N22 at Indiana State
N26 Slippery Rock
N30 Toledo
D4 at St. Francis (Pa.)
D7 Buffalo
D13 Shawnee State
D18 at Duquesne
D21 at UMKC
D28 Niagara
J2 at Loyola (Ill.)
J6 at Oakland
J9 Cleveland State
J11 at Wis.-Milwaukee
J13 Wright State
J16 Wis.-Green Bay
J18 at Butler
J23 Detroit
J25 Illinois-Chicago
F1 at Wright State
F6 Loyola (Ill.)
F8 at IUPU-Fort Wayne
F13 at Cleveland State
F15 Wis.-Milwaukee
F19 at Wis.-Green Bay
F22 Butler
F27 at Detroit
M1 at Illinois-Chicago

Rank 17

Mike Harrington, Buffalo News

Metro Atlantic

PREDICTIONS

1. Manhattan*
2. Niagara
3. Canisius
4. Iona
5. Siena
6. Fairfield
7. Marist
8. Rider
9. St. Peter's
10. Loyola (Md.)

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Luis Flores, Manhattan	6-2	175	Jr.
G	Brian Dux, Canisius	6-2	195	Sr.
G	Prosper Karangwa, Siena	6-7	185	Sr.
C	James Reaves, Niagara	6-8	250	Jr.
F	Courtney Fields, Iona	6-9	210	Sr.

Second team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
F	Tremmell Darden, Niagara	6-4	170	Jr.
F	Toby Foster, Canisius	6-6	220	Sr.
F	David Holmes, Manhattan	6-7	225	Jr.
G	Jerry Johnson, Rider	6-0	170	So.
G	Justin Jackette, Manhattan	6-2	180	Sr.

Player of the Year

Luis Flores, Manhattan

Newcomer of the Year

Kenny Minor, G, Manhattan

Honor roll

Best shooter: Toby Foster, Canisius
Best playmaker: Brian Dux, Canisius
Best dunker: Corien John, St. Peter's
Best NBA prospect: Ajou Deng, Fairfield
Most likely to blossom: T. Darden, Niagara
Best rebounder: Ajou Deng, Fairfield
Best defender: Deng Gai, Fairfield
Best game coach: Joe Mihalich, Niagara
Most versatile: Prosper Karangwa, Siena
Will take a charge: Michael Buhrman, Siena

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Rider	13	5	17	11
Marist	13	5	19	9
Manhattan^	12	6	20	9
Niagara	12	6	18	14
Iona	10	8	13	17
Fairfield	9	9	12	17
Siena*	9	9	18	19
Canisius	5	13	10	20
Loyola (Md.)	4	14	5	23
Saint Peter's	3	15	4	24

*Lost to Maryland in NCAA East first round.
^Lost to Villanova in NIT first round.

1. Manhattan, National Rank: 116

Outlook: The Jaspers have lost in the MAAC tourney quarterfinals in each of Bobby Gonzalez's three years as coach, and this looks like the season that will be different. The biggest key will be if freshman Kenny Minor is able to step in at the point for Von Damien Green. Minor doesn't need to score much because the Jaspers have plenty of weapons. Manhattan led the MAAC last year in scoring (75 ppg) and was second in defense (66 ppg allowed). The Jaspers have a do-it-all attack led by G Luis Flores, who burst on the scene last year after transferring from Rutgers. Along with Minor and 3-point specialist Justin Jackette, the Jaspers have an outstanding backcourt. The front line is questionable offensively, but 7-foot freshman Mihai Enescu should help on the boards.

Key players: Luis Flores, G, 6-2/Jr. (19.4 ppg, 46 FG%, 87 FT% 41 3PT%,); Dave Holmes, F, 6-7/Jr. (11.4 ppg, 7.6 rpg); Justin Jackette, G, 6-2/Sr.; Jared Johnson, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.7 rpg, 47 FG%).
Top newcomers: Mihai Enescu, C, 7-0/Fr.; Kenny Minor, G, 5-8/Fr.
Key losses: Noah Coughlin, G/F, (36 3PT%, 76 FT%); Von Damien Green, G (11.9 ppg, 4.9 apg, 38 3PT%, 82 FT%).
Coach: Bobby Gonzalez (46-39, 3 years).
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Riverdale, N.Y. **Home court:** Draddy Gym (3,000). **Website:** www.manhattan.edu/athletics

2. Niagara, National Rank: 184

Outlook: F James Reaves is a bruising rebounder, and G Tremmell Darden is one of the conference's best leapers. Juan Mendez led the MAAC in field-goal percentage last season as a freshman, and fellow freshman Alvin Cruz became entrenched at point guard. With Reaves and Mendez, Niagara has become the conference's top rebounding team. The Purple Eagles will have no problem scoring even with the loss of G Daryl Greene. But will they be able to stop people in the low post? Better defense might prevent another year of disappointment.

Key players: Alvin Cruz, G, 6-1/So. (45 FG%, 36 3PT%, 76 FT%); Tremmell Darden, G, 6-4/Jr. (13.0 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 44 FG%); Juan Mendez, F, 6-7/So. (6.1 rpg, 57 FG%); James Reaves, F, 6-8/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 43 FG%).
Top newcomers: Barry Durosier, G, 6-1/Fr.; James

Mathis, G, Fr.
Key losses: Daryl Greene, G (14.8 ppg, 41 FG%, 38 3PT%); Michael Schmidt, G (36 3PT%).
Coach: Joe Mihalich (67-51, 4 years).
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1970.
Site: Niagara, N.Y. **Home court:** Gallagher Center (2,400). **Website:** www.purpleeagles.com

3. Canisius, National Rank: 197

Outlook: Which stripes will the MAAC's March tiger wear this year? The Griffs have sandwiched 10-20 seasons around a 20-11 season in 2000-01. They have a talented corps of returnees and a strong incoming class. Brian Dux is the MAAC's best point guard. F Toby Foster is a fine 3-point shooter. Hodari Mallory is one of the league's top swingmen. The Griffs need more outside help so defenses can't key on Foster. Redshirt freshman G Kevin Downey should help. JC transfer Yaku Moton-Spruill will have to provide immediate help in the middle, or Canisius may have trouble competing on the boards.
Key players: Dewitt Doss, G, 5-10/Jr. (83 FT%); Brian Dux, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 4.8 apg, 44 FG%, 76 FT%); Toby Foster, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 43 3PT%); Hodari Mallory, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg).
Top newcomer: Yaku Moton-Spruill, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).
Key losses: Andy Bush, C (4.3 rpg); Richard Hampton, F (6.0 rpg, 44 FG%).
Coach: Mike MacDonald (68-77, 5 years).
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Buffalo, N.Y. **Home court:** Koessler Center (2,100). **Website:** www.gogriffs.com

4. Iona, National Rank: 202

Outlook: The Gaels' bid for a MAAC three-peat was short-circuited last year by turnovers. Iona averaged nearly 19 a game and was never in contention to retain its title. If senior Maceo Wofford doesn't find consistency at the point, coach Jeff Ruland will give him a quick hook. Freshmen Marvin McCullough and Steve Burtt Jr., son of Iona's all-time leading scorer, could get on-the-job training. Iona has solid frontcourt players in Greg Jenkins and Courtney Fields, but they must handle the ball better when it enters the low post. The Gaels need to be better defensively down low as well. Ruland's five-man recruiting class (four are freshmen) should have immediate impact.
Key players: Courtney Fields, G/F, 6-9/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 47 FG%); Greg Jenkins, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (10.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 49 FG%); Maceo Wofford, G, 5-10/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 44 FG%, 42 3PT%, 75 FT%).
Top newcomers: Steve Burtt Jr., G, 6-0/Fr.; Marvin McCullough, G, 6-0/Fr.
Key loss: Dyree Wilson, F (10.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 40 FG%).
Coach: Jeff Ruland (71-53, 4 years).
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: New Rochelle, N.Y. **Home court:** Mulcahy Center (2,611). **Website:** www.iona.edu/athletics.htm

5. Siena, National Rank: 214

Outlook: The Saints needed a miracle to win last season's MAAC tourney and will need another to win it again. The cupboard isn't bare, but with G Dwayne Archbold and F Andy Cavo gone, it doesn't figure to contain enough for another title run. G Prosper Karangwa and F Justin Miller are the top returnees, and JC transfer Jamaal Jackson should get the bulk of the minutes at point guard, a trouble spot in recent years. An interesting subplot will be the development of a blockbuster freshman class.
Key players: Austin Andrews, F, 6-9/Jr. (44 FG%); Prosper Karangwa, G, 6-7/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 3.1 apg, 43 FG%, 81 FT%); Justin Miller, F, 6-8/Jr. (5.0 rpg, 45 FG%); Tommy Mitchell, G, 6-3/So.; Mark Price, G, 6-1/Jr. (78 FT%).
Top newcomers: Jamaal Jackson, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Antoine Jordan, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Paul Williams, F, 6-9/Fr.
Key losses: Dwayne Archbold, G (19.9 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 42 FG%, 38 3PT%, 82 FT%); Andy Cavo, F (47 FG%, 40 3PT%, 83 FT%), James Clinton, F (5.0 rpg, 46 FG%, 75 FT%).
Coach: Rob Lanier (18-19, 1 year; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Loudonville, N.Y. **Home court:** Pepsi Arena (15,500). **Website:** www.sienasaints.com

6. Fairfield, National Rank: 225

Outlook: The Stags vaunted front line suddenly became paper thin over the summer. In June, Deng Gai, a shot-blocking machine as a freshman, was suspended for the first semester after an on-campus altercation. Connecticut transfer Ajou Deng, a hit his first year, had foot surgery in late July that could keep him out indefinitely. There aren't a lot of great shooters or rebounders, either. Will wings Jeremy Logan, Oscar Garcia or Nick Delfico have a breakout year or muddle along? Will there be effective point guard play? And can coach Tim O'Toole survive another season of underachievement if Deng and Gai aren't able to contribute much?
Key players: Nick Delfico, F/G, 6-5/Sr. (41 FG%, 42 3PT%); Ajou Deng, F, 6-10/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 48 FG%, 37 3PT%); Deng Gai, F, 6-9/So. (11.0 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 4.0 bpg, 46 FG%, 79 FT%); Oscar Garcia, G, 6-8/Sr. (46 FG%); Tyquawn Goode, G, 5-7/So. (3.0 apg); Jeremy Logan, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (77 FT%).
Top newcomers: Michael Bell, G, 6-4/Fr.; Dewitt Maxwell, G/F, 6-4/Fr.
Key loss: Sam Spann, F (12.1 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 50 FG%).
Coach: Tim O'Toole (50-63, 4 years).
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Fairfield, Conn. **Home court:** Arena at Harbor Yards (9,500). **Website:** www.fairfieldstags.com

7. Marist, National Rank: 230

Outlook: It will be strange to look in the backcourt and not see Sean Kennedy and Rick Smith. Without those stars it's rebuilding time for Marist, which is known for its passing and strong outside shooting. Marist has lacked a big-time frontcourt, but coach Dave Magarity got major minutes last year from Dennis Young and should get more help from JC transfer Chris Handy. Still, this will be a guard-oriented team. St. Bonaventure transfer Eric Siegrist, a 3-point specialist, should help fill the void from outside. Gs Nick Eppehimer, Anthony Walker and Brandon Ellerbee need to produce more.
Key players: Steve Castleberry, C, 6-11/So. (47 FG%); Brandon Ellerbee, G, 5-11/So. (42 FG%); Nick Eppehimer, G, 6-7/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 79 FT%); Dennis Young, F, 6-8/Jr. (4.1 rpg, 54 FG%).
Top newcomers: Chris Handy, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Carl Hood, G, Fr.; Pierre Monagan, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Eric Siegrist, G, Jr. (transfer/St. Bonaventure).
Key losses: Sean Kennedy, G (14.7 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 7.9 apg, 42 FG%, 37 3PT%); Rick Smith, G (11.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 35 3PT%, 80 FT%); Matt Tullis, F/C (6.0 rpg, 46 FG%).
Coach: Dave Magarity (234-221, 16 years; 294-297 overall, 21 years).
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Poughkeepsie, N.Y. **Home court:** McCann Center (3,944). **Website:** www.marist.edu

8. Rider, National Rank: 282

Outlook: The Broncs will host the MAAC tournament but don't look for them to stay long. Rider is 0-5 in quarterfinal games since joining the MAAC in 1997. MAAC player of the year Mario Porter is gone, and there is no one to replace his offense. Defensive stalwart R.J. Wicks also is gone. G Jerry Johnson becomes the go-to player, and he showed he's up to the task by scoring 36 points in last year's quarterfinal loss to Canisius. But defenses often were paying more attention to Porter in the low post. The most likely complement to Johnson is swingman Laurence Young. C Robert Reed must score more this year. Four promising freshmen should play a lot.
Key players: Jerry Johnson, G, 6-0/So. (15.0 ppg, 40 FG%, 38 3PT%, 79 FT%); Robert Reed, F/C, 6-10/Sr. (4.7 rpg, 42 FG%); Brandon Wahlmann, F, 6-9/Sr.
Top newcomers: Willie Dingle, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Edwin Muniz, F, 6-7/Fr.
Key losses: Mario Porter, F (20.1 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 50 FG%); R.J. Wicks, G (4.4 rpg, 45 FG%, 35 3PT%, 83 FT%).
Coach: Don Harnum (79-63, 5 years).
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Lawrenceville, N.J. **Home court:** Alumni Gym (1,650). **Website:** www.gobroncs.com

9. St. Peter's, National Rank: 285

Outlook: Despite going 4-24 for the second straight season, St. Peter's made opponents nervous because it has some weapons, notably Corien John, Devin Thompson and Melvin Robinson. But how can any team expect to make headway in the standings when it goes 0-9 at home? The Peacocks were the league's worst defensive and free-throw shooting team and committed the most turnovers. There will be some improvement, but don't expect a big leap.
Key players: Corien John, F, 6-4/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 42.6 FG%, 50.0 3PT%; Regis Devonish, G, 6-5/Jr. (36.3 3PT%).
Top newcomers: Keydren Clark, G, Fr.; George Jefferson, G, Fr.
Key losses: Nate Brown, G (4.1 rpg); Kamaal McQueen, F (10.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg).
Coach: Bob Leckie (8-48, 2 years).
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Jersey City, N.J. **Home court:** Yanitelli Center (3,200). **Website:** www.spc.edu

10. Loyola (Md.), National Rank: 308

Outlook: Yikes. The Greyhounds finished at the bottom of most statistical categories in the league last year and then lost G B.J. Davis, who transferred. Lucious Jordan and Donovan Thomas are about the only returning talent. Swingman Bobby Bossman, a top Ohio high school player, and G Charlie Bell need to have an immediate impact as freshmen to give the Greyhounds some hope for the future. Since joining the MAAC in 1989, Loyola has done virtually nothing except for its run to the '94 NCAA tourney.
Key players: Lucious Jordan, G, 6-2/So. (13.0 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 75 FT%); Irakli Nijaradze, C, 6-10/So. (44 FG%); Donovan Thomas, F, 6-7/Jr. (11.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 48 FG%).
Top newcomers: Charlie Bell, G, 6-4/Fr.; Bobby Bossman, G-F, 6-5/Fr.
Key losses: B.J. Davis, G (10.7 ppg); Damien Jenifer, G (3.6 apg).
Coach: Scott Hicks (11-46, 2 years; 142-141 overall, 10 years).
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Reitz Arena (3,000).
Website: www.loyola.edu/athletics

Metro Atlantic Schedules

Canisius
N23 Bethune-Cookman
N26 Saint Joseph's
D30 at Niagara
D3 at Bucknell
D7 at Siena
D14 Buffalo
D17 Morgan State
D19 St. Bonaventure
D22 at Notre Dame
D30 at Syracuse
J2 at Florida Int'l
J8 at Iona
J10 at Marist
J14 Fairfield
J16 Siena
J20 St. Peter's
J24 at Rider
J26 at Loyola
J31 Iona
F2 Manhattan
F6 at Fairfield
F8 at Manhattan
F12 Niagara
F14 Loyola
F23 at St. Peter's
F28 Marist
M2 Rider

Fairfield
N22 Harvard
N30 St. John's
D2 UNC Wilmington
D5 Iona
D7 at DePaul
D10 at Marist
D22 American
D28 at Fordham
D30 at Charleston Sth.
J2 at Duke
J5 Yale
J8 Loyola
J11 at Rider
J14 at Canisius
J18 at Iona
J20 at Siena
J23 Manhattan
J26 St. Peter's
J30 Siena
F6 Canisius
F9 Niagara
F13 at Manhattan
F15 Marist
F17 Rider
F22 at Niagara
F26 at St. Peters
M1 at Loyola

Iona
N23-24 Fla. Int'l Tour.
N26 Bethune-Cookman
N29 Rider
D3 Wagner
D5 at Fairfield
D11 at Akron
D23 Rhode Island
D27-28 ECAC Festival
J2 at Fordham
J4 at St. Peter's
J8 Canisius
J10 at Siena
J14 Loyola
J18 Fairfield
J24 Marist
J31 at Canisius
F2 at Niagara
F7 Niagara
F9 Siena
F13 at Rider
F16 Manhattan
F21 St. Peter's
F23 at Marist
F27 at Loyola
M2 at Manhattan

Loyola (Md.)
N23-25 Battle of Balt.
N29 at Manhattan
D2 Fair. Dickinson
D5 Niagara
D10 Md.-Baltimore Co.
D15 Mount St. Mary's
D22 Santa Clara
J2 at Northeastern
J6 Central Conn. St.
J8 at Fairfield
J10 at St. Peter's
J14 at Iona
J17 Marist
J19 Rider
J23 at Siena
J26 Canisius
J29 St. Peter's
F2 at Maryland
F9 at Marist
F11 Siena
F14 at Canisius
F16 at Niagara
F21 at Rider
F23 Manhattan
F27 Iona
M1 Fairfield

Manhattan
N25 Sacred Heart
N29 Loyola
D3 at Fordham
D7 Yale
D17-18 Minardi Classic
D21 St. Peter's
D23 at Hofstra
D27-28 ECAC Festival
J4 at Marist
J7 Siena
J10 Niagara
J16 at Rider
J18 at St. Peter's
J21 Rider
J23 at Fairfield
J31 at Niagara
F2 at Canisius
F6 Marist
F8 Canisius
F13 Fairfield
F16 at Iona
F23 at Loyola
F27 at Siena
M2 Iona

Marist
N22-23 Pepsi-Marist Cl.
N30 at La Salle
D5 at Rider
D7 Georgia Tech
D10 Fairfield
D14 Central Michigan
D22 at South Alabama
D28 Holy Cross
D30 Army
J2 at Northern Arizona
J4 Manhattan
J8 Niagara
J10 Canisius
J17 at Loyola
J24 at Iona
J26 Siena
J29 Rider
F1 at Siena
F6 at Manhattan
F9 Loyola
F12 at St. Peter's
F15 at Fairfield
F17 St. Peter's
F23 Iona
F28 at Canisius
M2 at Niagara

Niagara
N22 Marshall
N25 at Central Florida
N30 Canisius
D5 at Loyola
D7 at George Mason
D11 at Buffalo
D14 Akron
D21 Drexel
D28 at Youngstown St.
J2 at St. John's
J4 at Bucknell
J8 at Marist
J10 at Manhattan
J14 Siena
J16 St. Peter's
J24 at St. Peter's
J26 at Rider
J31 Manhattan
F2 Iona
F7 at Iona
F9 at Fairfield
F12 at Canisius
F16 Loyola
F18 at Siena
F22 Fairfield
F28 Rider
M2 Marist

Rider
N23 Monmouth
N29 at Iona
D3 Towson
D5 Marist
D10 Harvard
D14 at Delaware
D18 Princeton
D21 Coppin State
D23 at Massachusetts
J2 at Seton Hall
J8 at Brown
J11 Fairfield
J16 Manhattan
J19 at Loyola
J21 at Manhattan
J24 Canisius
J26 Niagara
J29 at Marist
F1 St. Peter's
F3 at Siena
F8 at St. Peter's
F13 Iona
F17 at Fairfield
F21 Loyola
F23 Siena
F28 at Niagara
M2 at Canisius

St. Peter's
N18-29 Preseason NIT
N22-23 Mohegan Sun
N27 St. Francis (N.Y.)
D5 at Seton Hall
D9 Siena
D11 at Fair. Dickinson
D14 at Monmouth
D19 Lafayette
D21 at Manhattan
D28 Hofstra
J4 Iona
J10 Loyola
J16 at Niagara
J18 Manhattan
J20 at Canisius
J24 Niagara
J26 at Fairfield
J29 at Loyola
F1 at Rider
F8 Rider
F12 Marist
F17 at Marist
F21 at Iona
F23 Canisius
F26 Fairfield
M1 at Siena

Siena
N22 Albany
N26 at Fordham
N30 Northern Iowa
D3 at Toledo
D7 Canisius
D9 at St. Peter's
D21 Delaware
D23 Xavier
D29-30 Big R Classic
J4 Providence
J7 at Manhattan
J10 Iona
J14 at Niagara
J16 at Canisius
J20 Fairfield
J23 Loyola
J26 at Marist
J30 at Fairfield
F1 Marist
F3 Rider
F9 at Iona
F11 at Loyola
F18 Niagara
F23 at Rider
F27 Manhattan
M1 St. Peter's

Rank 18

By Gordon Verrell, Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram

Big West

PREDICTIONS
1. UC Santa Barbara*
2. UC Irvine
3. Utah State
4. Long Beach State
5. Cal Poly
6. UC Riverside
7. Cal St. Northridge
8. Pacific
9. Cal State Fullerton
10. Idaho

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Demetrius Jackson, Pacific	5-10	170	Sr.
G	Jason Allen, Cal Poly	6-1	180	Sr.
F	Mark Hull, UC Santa Barbara	6-7	210	Sr.
F	Desmond Penigar, Utah State	6-7	245	Sr.
C	Vili Morton, UC Riverside	6-8	225	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Branduinn Fullove, UCSB	6-4	210	Jr.
G	Steve Geary, Cal Poly	5-11	180	Sr.
F	Pape Sow, Cal State Fullerton	6-10	240	Jr.
F	Kevin Roberts, Long Beach St.	6-7	225	Jr.
C	Adam Parada, UC Irvine	7-0	250	Jr.

Player of the Year
Vili Morton, UC Riverside

Newcomer of the Year
Cecil Brown, G, UC Santa Barbara

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Tony Darden, Long Beach St.
Best playmaker: Demetrius Jackson, Pacific
Best dunker: Toraino Johnson, Utah State
Best NBA prospect: Adam Parada, UC Irvine
Most likely to blossom: Steve Geary, Cal Poly
Best rebounder: Vili Morton, UC Riverside
Best defender: Vili Morton, UC Riverside
Best game coach: Stew Morrill, Utah State
Most versatile: Kevin Roberts, Long Beach St.
Will take a charge: Nick Jones, UCSB

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Utah State^	13	5	23	8
UC Irvine^^	13	5	21	11
Santa Barbara*	11	7	20	11
Pacific	11	7	20	10
CS Northridge	11	7	12	16
Cal Poly	9	9	15	12
Long Beach State	9	9	13	17
Idaho	6	12	9	19
UC Riverside	5	13	8	18
Fullerton	2	16	5	22

*Lost to Arizona in first round of NCAA Tournament.
^Lost to Montana State in NIT opening round.
^^Lost to BYU in NIT first round.

1. UC Santa Barbara, National Rank: 82

Outlook: UCSB is one of only two charter Big West members—Long Beach State is the other—remaining from the conference's first season (1969), yet the Gauchos failed to reach the championship game in any of the first 26 postseason tournaments. That is, until last season, when they beat the Big West's top two seeds, UC Irvine and Utah State, and captured the title. Four starters return, including F/Gs Mark Hull and F/G Branduinn Fullove, who ranked fifth and ninth, respectively, in the conference in scoring last season. They were fifth and fourth, respectively, in 3-point shooting. Jacoby Atako, who was fourth in assists (4.1), and Nick Jones form perhaps the league's strongest backcourt. Because leading rebounder Adama Ndiaye is gone, board duty falls to freshman F Scott Rainey and junior F Bryan Whitehead.

Key players: Branduinn Fullove, F/G, 6-4/Jr. (14.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 3.0 apg, 45.4 FG%, 42.0 3PT%, 85.0 FG%); Mark Hull, F/G, 6-7/Sr. (15.2 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 40.6 FG%; 41.5 3PT%; 79.2 FT%).
Top newcomer: Scott Rainey, F, 6-4/Fr.
Key losses: Adama Ndiaye, C (10.5 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 49.4 FG%, 74.8 FG%); Mike Vukovich, F (52.1 FG%).
Coach: Bob Williams (62-53, 4 years; 251-153 overall, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Santa Barbara, Calif. **Home court:** Thunderdome (6,000). **Website:** ucsbgauchos.com

2. UC Irvine, National Rank: 97

Outlook: The good news: The Anteaters have four starters returning. The bad news: The one who isn't back is two-time Big West Player of the Year PG Jerry Green. The Anteaters still have plenty of weapons. C Adam Parada (7-0) and F Jordan Harris ranked among the top 10 in the Big West last season in rebounds and field-goal percentage, and Mike Hood was 10th in 3-point shooting (35.7 percent). Also returning are 6-10 F Stanislav Zuzak and F Greg Ethington, who made the Big West all-freshman team before spending the last two seasons on a Mormon mission. SG Mike Hood likely will take over the point, with some help from redshirt freshman DeVaughn Peace. The Anteaters will be shooting for

their third consecutive 20-win season, a feat they never have accomplished. UCI won 46 games over the past two seasons—one more win than in its five previous seasons combined.
Key players: Jordan Harris, F, 6-5/Sr. (12.4 pgg, 6.8 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 48.2 FG%, 40.0 3PT%); Adam Parada, C, 7-0/Jr. (12.4 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 57.7 FG%).
Top newcomer: Mike Efevberha, G, 6-4/Fr.
Key losses: Jerry Green, G (20.3 ppg, 4.0 apg, 48.2 FG%, 36.7 3PT%, 82.2 FG%); J.R. Christ, F (46.3 FG%).
Coach: Pat Douglass (75-58, 5 years; 451-186 overall, 21 years).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Irvine, Calif. **Home court:** Bren Events Center (5,000). **Website:** www.athletics.uci.edu

3. Utah State, National Rank: 107

Outlook: After losing four starters from his 2000-01 team, coach Stew Morrill reloaded last season and led the Aggies to a tie with UC Irvine for the league title. He has plenty of firepower left. PF Desmond Penigar, first team all-conference last season, is the primary reason for continued optimism; he was second in the conference in scoring and tied for third in rebounding. PG Ronnie Ross and SFs Toraino Johnson and Chad Evans have starting experience. With the loss of Tony Brown, Ross may move back to off-guard, with JC transfer Mark Brown taking over the point. One to watch: C Mike Ahmad, who averaged fewer than 4 points a game last season, his first at Utah State, after averaging 18 per game in junior college. The Aggies play six of their first seven games away from Smith Spectrum—where they're 75-5 the past five seasons—before hosting Utah in mid-December.
Key players: Desmond Penigar, F, 6-7/Sr. (17.2 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 48.7 FG%, 79.1 FG%); Ronnie Ross, F, 6-1/Sr. (75.9 FG%).
Top newcomer: Mark Brown, G, 5-10/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Tony Brown, G (15.2 ppg, 4.2 apg, 47.6 FG%, 44.0 3PT%, 87.3 FT%); Jeremy Vague, C (5.2 rpg, 58.2 FG%).
Coach: Stew Morrill (94-33, 4 years; 312-171 overall, 16 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Logan, Utah. **Home court:** Dee Glen Smith Spectrum (10,270). **Website:** www.utahstateaggies.com

4. Long Beach State, National Rank: 127

Outlook: The 49ers return two starters—F Kevin Roberts and G Tony Darden—and wing Chris Jenkins, a league all-freshman pick last season. But much of their success will depend on how well Fs Lemi Williams and Tadeu Souza return from serious leg injuries that sidelined both almost all of last season. The 49ers lost their top rebounder in Travis Reed but hope 7-1 Alex Graham, who redshirted last season, is ready. Because Ron Johnson and Michael Darrett are gone, the point guard will be inexperienced: Sophomores Cody Pearson and Mark Bowens had little playing time last season, and Jibril Hodges is a freshman, albeit one who has good genes. His father, Craig, is a Long Beach State alumnus who played on the Bulls' NBA title teams in 1991 and '92.
Key players: Tony Darden, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 75.6 FT%); Kevin Roberts, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.2 rpg, 45.9 FG%, 36.1 3PT%, 78.0 FT%), Chris Jenkins, F, 6-7/So. (43.8 FG%, 77.8 FT%).
Top newcomer: Jibril Hodges, G, 6-1/Fr.
Key losses: Travis Reed, C (14.7 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 58.4 FG%); Ron Johnson, G (12.5 ppg, 41.9 FG%, 76.7 FT%); Michael Darrett, G (41.1 FG%).
Coach: Larry Reynolds (1st year).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Long Beach, Calif. **Home court:** The Pyramid (5,000). **Website:** www.longbeachstate.com

5. Cal Poly, National Rank: 163

Outlook: Coming off their first .500 conference season in six years of Big West play, the Mustangs clearly are on the rise. F/C Varnie Denniswith, one of the league's top scorers and rebounders, and senior Gs Steve Geary and Jason Allen, return, creating hope this could be the season the Mustangs are in the hunt. With Brandon Beeson gone, the burly Dennis must improve his rebounding. Minnesota transfer F Shane Schilling, who will be eligible in mid-December, will help on the boards. The most significant change in the program under Kevin Bromley, entering his third year as coach, has come on defense. After giving up 80-plus points a game each of the previous four seasons, Cal Poly allowed 67.9 a game last season.
Key players: Jason Allen, G, 6-1/Sr. (3.9 apg); Varnie Dennis, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (14.7 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 1.6 bpg, 49.3 FG%, 41.9 3PT%); Steve Geary, G, 5-11/Sr. (51.0 FG%, 85.7 FT%).
Top newcomer: Shane Schilling, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Minnesota); Fernando Sampson, G, 6-1/Fr.
Key losses: Brandon Beeson, F (12.1 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 43.3 FG%); David Henry, F (4.3 rpg, 35.1 3PT%, 77.3 FT%).
Coach: Kevin Bromley (19-24 overall, 2 years).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: San Luis Obispo, Calif. **Home court:** Mott Gymnasium (3,032). **Website:** www.gopoly.com

6. UC Riverside, National Rank: 207

Outlook: The Highlanders have a dominant big man in Vili Morton, who led the Big West in rebounds (9.3) and blocked shots (3.2) last season. Morton also led the league in shooting percentage (58.6 percent) but averaged just 10.9 points a game, which still led the team. That underscores UCR's biggest void—offensive punch. The team averaged 64.5 points a game last season and had no one among the league's top 15 scorers. A key could be F Mark Miller, whose production fell off noticeably from 14.7 points a game his sophomore season to 6.5 in 2001-02. F John Galbreath, UCR's second-leading scorer, and G Kevin Butler both started all 26 games last season. Coach John Masi, beginning his 24th season at UCR, welcomes two redshirt freshmen, 6-6 Mike Ferrera and 6-7 Jonathan Folonis, and junior college transfer Zack Jones Jr.
Key players: Vili Morton, F, 6-8/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 9.3 rpg, 3.2 bpg, 58.6 FG%); John Galbreath, F, 6-6/Jr. (4.3 rpg, 49.0 FG%, 77.3 FT%).
Top newcomers: Zack Jones Jr., G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/JC); Nate Carter, G/F, 6-7/Fr.
Key loss: Lloyd Cook, F (48.4 FG%).
Coach: John Masi (436-215 overall, 23 years).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Riverside, Calif. **Home court:** Student Rec. Center (3,168). **Website:** www.athletics.ucr.edu

7. Cal St. Northridge, National Rank: 231

Outlook: If the Matadors start running, look out. PG Markus Carr is the only starter gone from a team that finished just two games out of first last season, so everyone is well-schooled in coach Bobby Braswell's uptempo style. G/F Ian Boylan and Fs Chris Davis and Joseph Frazier made the league's all-freshman team last year. F Lionel Benjamin was eighth in rebounding in conference games. Newcomers include two JC transfer guards and two freshman big men. Northridge will pour on the defensive pressure—the Matadors averaged more than 10 steals a game last season—and rely on the transition game. But the biggest question—and the prime reason the Matadors aren't picked higher—is uncertainty about who will replace Carr, the Big West's third-leading scorer last season. Senior Curtis Slaughter is a likely candidate.
Key players: Ian Boylan, G, 6-6/So.; Lionel Benjamin, F, 6-4/Sr. (5.2 rpg, 52.6 FG%).
Top newcomer: Thomas Shewmake, F, 6-10/Fr.
Key loss: Markus Carr, G (16.0 ppg, 5.3 apg, 40.5 FG%, 36.3 3PT%, 78.4 FT%).
Coach: Bobby Braswell (97-79, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Northridge, Calif. **Home court:** The Matadome (1,600). **Website:** www.gomatadors.com

8. Pacific, National Rank: 246

Outlook: After losing nine letterwinners, coach Bob Thomason will rely on a nearly all-new cast this season. Combo G Demetrius Jackson, the only returning starter, was the Tigers' leading scorer last season; he was eighth in the Big West in 3-point shooting and ninth in assists, although he struggled with turnovers. Tom Cockle, a starter at forward two years ago, returns after redshirting last season. He averaged 7.1 points a game in 2000-01. The only others with experience are G Jasko Korajkic and Tim Johnson, a backup center who is the most experienced Tiger. Thomason brought in some top-flight JC transfers, including 6-10 Tyler Newton.
Key players: Demetrius Jackson, G, 5-10/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 3.5 apg, 41.1 FG%, 36.4 3PT%, 84.8 FT%); Tim Johnson, C, 6-11/Sr. (44.7 FG%).
Top newcomer: Miah Davis, G, 6-1/RFr.; Tyler Newton, C/F, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Maurice McLemore, G (11.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 3.5 apg, 36.4 3PT%, 79.3 FT%); Mike Hahn, F (4.8 rpg, 66.9 FG%, 50.0 3PT%).
Coach: Bob Thomason (222-185, 14 years; 274-212 overall, 16 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Stockton, Calif. **Home court:** Alex G. Spanos Center (6,150). **Website:** www.pacifictigers.com

9. Cal St. Fullerton, National Rank: 252

Outlook: The Titans, who have had nine consecutive losing seasons, likely will labor through another in 2002-03. Fullerton has a solid inside game with Pape Sow, the fourth-leading scorer in the conference last season, Babacar Camara and swingman Brandon Campbell, but it is short on guards. The Titans ranked ninth in the Big West in assists last season, although G Derick Andrew's average of 3.5 per game was eighth in the league. Finally free of probation, the Titans were able to recruit junior college players. Coach Donny Daniels brought in four, three of them from Brooklyn, N.Y.: G/F Franck Essis, F Jamal Forcheney and F Bron Groomes.
Key players: Babacar Camara, C, 6-11/Sr. (4.1 rpg, 43.1 FG%); Brandon Campbell, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 48.2 FG%, 40.2 3PT%); Pape Sow, F, 6-10/Jr. (15.5 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 42.1 FG%).
Top newcomers: Franck Essis, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/JC); Ronald Allen, F, 6-9/Fr.
Key losses: Kevin Richardson, (37.4 FG%, 78.2 FT%); Josh Fischer, (5.9 rpg, 56.8 FG%, 40.2 3PT%).

Coach: Donny Daniels (10-45, 2 years).
Last NCAA appearance: 1978.
Site: Fullerton, Calif. **Home court:** Titan Gym (3,500).
Website: www.titansports.org

10. Idaho, National Rank: 280

Outlook: No one is too surprised that coach Leonard Perry has a completely revamped lineup after the team endured three successive losing seasons, including a 15-40 mark the last two. G Justin Logan, who averaged 38.4 minutes a game, is the only starter who returns, and G Jermery Turner, a walk-on who started 17 games, is the only other returning letterman. Size, or the lack of it, was one of the Vandals' biggest problems last season. They were last in the league in rebounding and next to last in blocked shots. Among six newcomers Perry recruited are freshman C David Radlovic and junior college Fs Jack May and Jonathan Tinnon. Perry likes a ball-control offense, which should provide playing time for freshman G Ronnie Smith, who averaged 19.5 points and 5.0 assists as a high school senior.

Key players: Justin Logan,G, 6-0/Sr.; Jermery Turner, G, 6-3/Sr. (77.6 FT%).
Top newcomers: David Radlovic, C, 6-8/Fr.; Jack May, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Bethuel Fletcher, G (37.9 3PT%); Rodney Hilaire, F (5.4 rpg).
Coach: Leonard Perry (9-19, 1 year).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Moscow, Idaho. **Home court:** Cowan Spectrum (7,000). **Website:** www.uiathletics.com

Big West Schedules

UC Irvine
N22-23 Sooner Invit.
N30 at Pepperdine
D4 Loyola Marymount
D7 Pomona-Pitzer
D19 at Stanford
D22 at St. Mary's
D28 IUPU-Fort Wayne
D30 Florida Atlantic
J4 at Long Beach State
J8 at CS Fullerton
J11 at UC Riverside
J15 Utah State
J18 Idaho
J23 at Pacific
J25 at CS Northridge
J30 UC Santa Barbara
F1 Cal Poly
F5 UC Riverside
F8 CS Fullerton
F13 at Utah State
F15 at Idaho
F20 CS Northridge
F22 Pacific
F27 at Cal Poly
M1 at UC Santa Barbara
M8 Long Beach State

UC Riverside
N22 at USC
N30 San Diego
D14 UC Santa Cruz
D17 at St. Mary's
D21 at San Diego
D28 at Oregon
J2 at UC Santa Barbara
J4 at Cal Poly
J9 Long Beach State
J11 UC Irvine
J18 at CS Fullerton
J23 at Utah State
J25 at Idaho
J30 Pacific
F1 CS Northridge
F6 at UC Irvine
F8 at Long Beach State
F12 CS Fullerton
F20 Idaho State
F22 Utah State
M1 at Pacific
M6 at Cal Poly
M8 UC Santa Barbara

UC Santa Barbara
N21-24 Top of World Cl.
N27 Westmont
N30 San Francisco
D3 USC
D7 at Pepperdine
D10 at California
D21 at BYU
D27-28 azcentral.com Cl.
J2 UC Riverside
J4 CS Fullerton
J9 at Idaho
J11 at Utah State
J16 CS Northridge
J18 Pacific
J25 Cal Poly
J30 at UC Irvine
F1 at Long Beach State
F6 Utah State
F8 Idaho
F13 at Pacific
F15 at CS Northridge
F20 at Cal Poly
F22 Bracket Buster
F27 Long Beach State
M1 UC Irvine
M6 at CS Fullerton
M8 at UC Riverside

Cal Poly
N22 at Colorado
N30 N. Dame De Namur
D2 at Oregon State
D7 Sacramento State
D16 Loyola Marymount
D20-21 Hawaii Festival
D28 at St. Mary's
J2 CS Fullerton
J4 UC Riverside
J9 at Utah State
J11 at Idaho
J16 Pacific
J18 CS Northridge
J25 at UC Santa Barbara
J30 at Long Beach State
F1 at UC Irvine
F6 Idaho
F8 Utah State
F13 at CS Northridge
F15 at Pacific
F20 UC Santa Barbara
F27 UC Irvine
M1 Long Beach State
M6 at UC Riverside
M8 at CS Fullerton

CS Fullerton
N22-24 Tip-off Tour.
D2 Morris Brown
D4 Pepperdine
D7 at Loy. Marymount
D14 Idaho State
D21 at Sacramento St.
D28 at San Francisco
J2 at Cal Poly
J4 at UC Santa Barbara
J8 UC Irvine
J11 Long Beach State
J14 at Idaho State
J18 UC Riverside
J23 at Idaho
J25 at Utah State
J30 CS Northridge
F1 Pacific
F6 at Long Beach State
F8 at UC Irvine
F12 at UC Riverside
F20 Utah State
F22 Idaho
F27 at Pacfic
M1 at CS Northridge
M6 UC Santa Barbara
M8 Cal Poly

CS Northridge
N22 at Portland State
N24-25 Thompson Chall.
D1 Howard
D4 at San Diego
D7 Bethany
D14 San Jose State
D19 Loyola Marymount
D22 at Southern Illinois
D28 at Washington
J2 Utah State
J4 Idaho
J11 at Pacific
J16 at UC S. Barbara
J18 at Cal Poly
J22 Long Beach State
J25 UC Irvine
J30 at CS Fullerton
F1 at UC Riverside
F8 Pacific
F13 Cal Poly
F15 UC Santa Barbara
F20 at UC Irvine
F22 at Long Beach State
F27 UC Riverside
M1 CS Fullerton
M6 at Utah State
M8 at Idaho

Idaho
N23 at Oregon State
N26 Western Montana
N30 at Boise State
D4 Washington State
D7 at East. Washington
D12 at Montana
D15 Boise State
D21 Montana State
D27 Sacramento State
J2 at Pacific
J4 at CS Northridge
J9 UC Santa Barbara
J11 Cal Poly
J16 at Long Beach State
J18 at UC Irvine
J23 CS Fullerton
J25 UC Riverside
F1 Utah State
F6 at Cal Poly
F8 at UC Santa Barbara
F13 UC Irvine
F15 Long Beach State
F20 at UC Riverside
F22 at CS Fullerton
M1 at Utah State
M6 CS Northridge
M8 Pacific

Long Beach State
N22 at Charlotte
N26 CS Monterey Bay
D2 Pepperdine
D4 at Southern Utah
D8 at UCLA
D10 San Diego State
D14 Loyola Marymount
D20 at Gonzaga
D30 Portland
J4 UC Irvine
J9 at UC Riverside
J11 at CS Fullerton
J16 Idaho
J18 Utah State
J23 at CS Northridge
J25 at Pacific
J30 Cal Poly
F1 UC Santa Barbara
F6 CS Fullerton
F8 UC Riverside
F13 at Utah State
F15 at Idaho
F20 Pacific
F22 CS Northridge
F27 at UC Santa Barbara
M1 at Cal Poly
M8 at UC Irvine

Pacific
N22 Santa Clara
N24 Lamar
N30 at Oregon
D7 at Nevada
D11 at Fresno State
D14 San Francisco
D21 at San Jose State
D23 Western Kentucky
D28 St. Joseph's
J2 Idaho
J4 Utah State
J11 CS Northridge
J16 at Cal Poly
J18 UC Santa Clara
J23 UC Irvine
J25 Long Beach State
J30 at UC Riverside
F1 at CS Fullerton
F8 at CS Northridge
F13 UC Santa Barbara
F15 Cal Poly
F20 Long Beach State
F22 at UC Irvine
D27 CS Fullerton
M1 UC Riverside
M6 at Utah State
M8 at Idaho

Utah State
N26 Whitman
N29 Vermont*
N30 Drake*
D1 Hawaii-Hilo*
D7 at Jackson State
D14 at BYU
D17 Utah
D21 Weber State
D27-28 Gossner Foods Cl.
J2 at CS Northridge
J4 at Pacific
J9 Cal Poly
J11 UC Santa Barbara
J15 at UC Irvine
J18 at Long Beach State
J23 UC Riverside
J25 CS Fullerton
F1 at Idaho
F6 at UC Santa Barbara
F8 at Cal Poly
F13 UC Irvine
F15 Long Beach State
F20 at CS Fullerton
F22 at UC Riverside
M1 Idaho
M6 CS Northridge
M8 Pacific
*at Hilo, Hawaii.

Rank 19

By Michael Bradley, free-lance writer

Colonial

PREDICTIONS

1. UNC Wilmington*
2. Drexel
3. Va. Commonwealth
4. Hofstra
5. George Mason
6. Delaware
7. James Madison
8. Old Dominion
9. William & Mary
10. Towson

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brett Blizzard, UNC Wilmington	6-4	195	Sr.
G	David Fanning, James Madison	6-0	175	Sr.
G	Domonic Jones, VCU	6-1	180	Jr.
F	Robert Battle, Drexel	6-8	230	Sr.
F	Kenny Adeleke, Hofstra	6-8	210	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Rick Apodaca, Hofstra	6-3	190	Sr.
G	Willie Taylor, VCU	6-5	200	Sr.
F	Ricardo Marsh, Old Dominion	6-7	225	Sr.
F	Jesse Young, George Mason	6-10	210	Sr.
F	Craig Callahan, UNC Wilmington	6-8	250	Sr.

Player of the Year
Brett Blizzard, UNC Wilmington

Newcomer of the Year
Jamaal Gilchrist, G, Towson

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Brett Blizzard, UNC Wilmington
Best playmaker: Eric Schmieder, Drexel
Best dunker: Willie Taylor, Va. Commonwealth
Best NBA prospect: Brett Blizzard, UNC Wilmington
Most likely to blossom: Mike Slattery, Delaware
Best rebounder: Robert Battle, Drexel
Best defender: Robert Battle, Drexel
Best game coach: Jim Larranaga, G. Mason
Most versatile: Brian Allen, Towson
Will take a charge: Jon Larranaga, G. Mason

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
UNC Wilmington*	17	4	23	10
George Mason^	13	5	19	10
Va. Commonwealth	11	7	21	11
Drexel	11	7	14	14
Delaware	9	9	14	16
Old Dominion	7	11	13	16
Towson	7	11	11	18
William & Mary	7	11	10	19
James Madison	6	12	14	15
Hofstra	5	13	12	20

*Lost to Indiana in NCAA South second round.
^Lost to Saint Joseph's in NIT opening round.

1. UNC Wilmington, National Rank: 94

Outlook: Former coach Jerry Wainwright moved on and up to Richmond, but G Brett Blizzard and three other starters return for the Seahawks, whose first-round NCAA upset of USC last March further established them as a rising mid-major power. The key for new coach Brad Brownell is to sustain the success. Blizzard, with his sharp shooting, is a great starting point, particularly if he can be more effective off the dribble. F Craig Callahan, a 6-8 senior, is a good second option, but the Seahawks need someone to step up beside him now that Ed Williams is gone. That could be 6-6 junior Anthony Terrell, who gets to the rim with authority, or one of two sophomores, 6-11 Aaron Coombs or 6-9 Brandon Clifford. Expect more great defense from UNCW and another strong run at the CAA crown.
Key players: Brett Blizzard, G, 6-4/Sr. (17.9 ppg, 2.9 apg); Tim Burnette, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.7 ppg); Craig Callahan, F, 6-8/Sr. (13 ppg, 5 rpg); Anthony Terrell, F, 6-6/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 4.5 rpg).
Top newcomers: John Goldsberry, G, 6-3/Fr.; Mitch Lauc, F, 6-7/Fr.
Key losses: Ed Williams, F (10.2 ppg, 6.6 rpg)
Coach: Brad Brownell (1st year).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Wilmington, N.C. **Home court:** Trask Coliseum (6,100).
Website: www.uncwil.edu/athletics

2. Drexel, National Rank: 129

Outlook: The Dragons bolted from the gate well last year in CAA play but faded. But all five starters return and there should be some impressive depth. The team starts with C Robert Battle, a hungry rebounder and reliable interior scorer who was 10th in the nation in blocked shots last year. F Tim Whitworth is an accurate long-range bomber with plenty of skills, and sophomore G Phil Goss can stroke it, too. Expect senior Eric Schmieder to be near the top of the league in assists again (he led it last season). Jeremiah King, the third guard, has potential if not consistency. Drexel will fight hard and defend but it must shoot more accurately and rebound with more authority to win the title.
Key players: Robert Battle, C, 6-8/Sr. (14.5 ppg, 9 rpg, 3.25 bpg); Phil Goss, G, 6-1/So. (11.4 ppg); Jeremiah King, G, 6-2/So. (7.7 ppg); Eric Schmieder, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 5.25 apg); Tim Whitworth, F, 6-6/Jr. (14.1 ppg).
Top newcomers: David Hilton, G, 5-11/Jr. (transfer/JC); Kennell Sanchez, G/F, 6-5/Fr.
Key losses: None.
Coach: James "Bruiser" Flint, (14-14, 1 year; 100-86 overall, 6 years).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Philadelphia.
Home court: Daskalakis Athletic Center (2,300).
Website: www.drexel.edu/sports

3. Virginia Commonwealth, National Rank: 206

Outlook: There is considerable firepower, but there also are plenty of questions surrounding the Rams. Can VCU share the ball and not collect 99 more turnovers than assists? Will the JC newcomers do their jobs up front? Will new coach Jeff Capel be the latest Duke product to succeed on the bench, or is he overmatched at age 29? Expect Capel's presence to foster a sense of togetherness, particularly on the perimeter, where wing F Willie Taylor and Gs Domonic Jones and Antoine Willie can score. They just need to harmonize better. The Rams certainly will play some sticky defense, thanks to Capel's Dookie pedigree. Whether they can stop anybody inside depends on 6-6, 300-pound JC transfer Troy Godwin and 6-10 JC product Kevin Moore. Another transfer, 6-7 Michael Doles (Wright State), will join the team at midseason.
Key players: Konstantin Nesterov, F, 6-6, Sr. (3.7 ppg); Willie Taylor, F, 6-5/Sr. (17.1 ppg, 4.5 rpg); Antoine Willie, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.7 ppg); Domonic Jones, G, 6-1/Jr. (16.1 ppg, 3.9 apg).
Top newcomers: Troy Godwin, C, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/JC); F Kevin Moore, F, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: L.F. Likcholitov, C; Josh Graham, F.
Coach: Jeff Capel (1st year).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Richmond, Va.
Home court: ALLTEL Pavilion at Stuart C. Siegel Center (7,500).
Website: www.vcu.edu/vcurams

4. Hofstra, National Rank: 222

Outlook: Five starters and four key reserves return to a team that made a nice recovery from its 0-8 conference start and advanced to the CAA tournament semifinals. The one-two punch of SG Rick Apodaca and PF Kenny Adeleke leads the way. Seniors Marc Petit and Lars Grubler team with Wendell Gibson and give Adeleke plenty of powerful support on the backboards and defensively, although none is a big-time scorer. Newcomer Omar Alston, 6-8, 290, adds even more beef. Expect solid wing play from Danny Walker and Osei Millar, but the Pride needs an upgrade at the point. Woody Souffrant wore down last year as a freshman, thanks to his 5-11, 160-pound frame. He'll be pushed by freshman Gibran Washington (6-1, 200). Hofstra isn't ready for the title yet, but it will make a big improvement on last season.
Key players: Kenny Adeleke, F, 6-8/So. (13.5 ppg, 7.8 rpg); Rick Apodaca, G, 6-3/Sr. (17.7 ppg); Marc Petit, C, 6-8/Sr. (2.6 rpg); Woody Souffrant, G, 5-11/So. (4.5 apg); Danny Walker, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 6.1 rpg).
Top newcomers: Omar Alston, F/C, 6-8/Fr.; Tyler Glass, G, 6-1/Fr.; Aurimas Kieza, F, 6-8/Fr.; Gibran Washington, G, 6-1/Fr.
Key losses: None.
Coach: Tom Pecora (12-20, 1 year).
Last league title: 2001 (America East).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Hempstead, N.Y.
Home court: Hofstra Arena (5,124).
Website: www.hofstra.edu/athletics

5. George Mason, National Rank: 226

Outlook: Four starters are back and the front line looks solid, but depth could be a concern, particularly if the newcomers don't step up immediately. Senior Jesse Young is a potent inside force who teams with tough defender Jon Larranaga. Lamar Butler is a strong outside shooter; Raoul Heinen is a fine distributor and penetrator. After that come the question marks. Coach Jim Larranaga hopes wing Mark Davis, a JC import, can start right away. He also needs 260-pound freshman banger Jai Lewis to provide interior support.
Key players: Lamar Butler, G, 6-1/So. (10.4 ppg); Raoul Heinen, G, 6-5/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 4.6 apg); Jon Larranaga, F, 6-7/Sr. (11 ppg, 6 rpg); Jesse Young, F, 6-10/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 8.4 rpg).
Top newcomers: Mark Davis, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/JC); Jai Lewis, F, 6-7/Fr.
Key losses: Darren Tarver, G (18.0 ppg, 55.0 FG% in 3 games); Rob Anderson, G/F (12.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 40.6 FG%).
Coach: Jim Larranaga (84-62, 5 years; 282-231 overall, 18 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Fairfax, Va.
Home court: Patriot Center (10,000).
Website: www.GMUsports.com

6. Delaware, National Rank: 233

Outlook: Despite plenty of turnover—three transfers and the loss of Vohn Hunter to academic troubles—the Blue Hens have some options. Most important is that this year's unit won't likely be shaken by the step up in competition from the America East, as last year's team sometimes was. The backcourt has depth, thanks to PG Mike Slattery, who has emerged as a steady player. Junior Mike Ames is one of the league's top 3-point shooters, and senior Ryan Iversen has been a solid sixth man. Add in freshman Rulon Washington and his 40-inch vertical, and the Hens are set at guard. Up front, senior Maurice Sessoms is a stalwart, but he needs help. Some could come from newcomer Chris Prothro, provided his injured knee has healed completely. Coach David Henderson is counting on rebounding and defense from 7-0 Ioannis Xenakis, who took a medical redshirt (knee) last season.
Key players: Mike Ames, G, 6-3/Jr. (45 FG%, 46 3PT%, 12.1 ppg); Ryan Iversen, G, 6-3/Sr. (7.7 ppg); Maurice Sessoms, F, 6-8/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 5 rpg); Mike Slattery, G, 6-0/So. (4.8 ppg); Robin Wentt, F, 6-7/Jr. (3.7 rpg).
Top newcomers: Chris Prothro, F, 6-5/Fr.; Rulon Washington, G, 6-1/Fr.
Key loss: Austin Rowland, G (3.3 apg, 78.3 FT%).
Coach: David Henderson (34-26, 2 years).
Last league title: 1999 (America East).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Newark, Del.
Home court: Bob Carpenter Center (5,000).
Website: www.udel.edu/sportsinfo

7. James Madison, National Rank: 234

Outlook: With five starters back, the Dukes harbor hopes of significant improvement but a modest step up is more likely. There's nothing laid back about senior G David Fanning's scoring ability. He led the league last year with 18 points a game and could be even more productive if he improves his field-goal percentage (37.2). That's a refrain likely to be repeated throughout the season for all of the Dukes, who made just 42.1 percent of their tries last year. It would be nice if the team shared the ball better, too. JMU averaged just 10.8 assists per game last season, a big reason it struggled to score. Junior PG Chris Williams is a steady distributor, but he needs help setting the table. Perhaps freshman Wes Miller will be an answer. Up front, 6-4 Dwayne Broyles is a solid scorer; Ian Caskill, Kenny Whitehead and Pat Mitchell are solid close to the hoop.
Key players: Dwayne Broyles, F, 6-4/Jr. (11 ppg, 4.3 rpg); David Fanning, G, 6-0/Sr. (18 ppg); Pat Mitchell, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 6.9 rpg); Chris Williams, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.1 ppg, 3.7 apg).
Top newcomers: Wes Miller, G, 5-11/Fr.; Jon Plefka, F, 6-8/Fr.
Key loss: Ron Anderson, F (12.8 ppg, 5.6 rpg).

Coach: Sherman Dillard (73-68, 5 years; 102-120 overall, 8 years).
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Harrisonburg, Va. **Home court:** JMU Convocation Center (7,156).
Website: www.jmusports.com

8. Old Dominion, National Rank: 286

Outlook: There is no doubt the Monarchs again will stop people. If they don't stop themselves then ODU has a shot at returning to the first division. The team struggled to score points last year and must hope that returners with starting experience can find the hoop more frequently. Expect senior Fs Ricardo Marsh and Rasheed Wright to lead the way again. They combined for nearly 30 points a game last year. G Troy Nance is a solid part-time point guard who shoots well and is a solid distributor. He'll likely team with Kiah Thomas in the backcourt and have help in the backcourt from high-scoring freshmen Isaiah Hunter and John Morris. Coach Blaine Taylor must hope 6-10 Joe Principe emerges as a force, or he'll have to turn to freshmen Janko Mrksic and Alex Loughton for immediate help.
Key players: Ricardo Marsh, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 7.2 rpg); Troy Nance, G, 5-9/Jr. (4.2 apg); Kiah Thomas, G, 6-4/So. (5.3 ppg); John Waller, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (7.9 ppg); Rasheed Wright, F, 6-6/Sr. (14.1 ppg).
Top newcomers: Isaiah Hunter, G, 6-2/Fr.; John Morris, G, 6-1/Fr; Janko Mrksic, C, 6-10/Fr.
Key losses: Pierre Greene, G (9.9 ppg, 3.0 apg); Clay McGowen, C (5.2 rpg).
Coach: Blaine Taylor (13-16, 1 year; 155-81 overall, 8 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Norfolk, Va.
Home court: Constant Convocation Center (8,650).
Website: www.odusports.com

9. William & Mary, National Rank: 289

Outlook: If the Tribe is to continue its slow progress, it must hope several reserves and this year's six newcomers can make significant contributions. It's not impossible, but a more likely scenario is a slow blending of talent that results in better times next year. Returning full-time starters Nick D'Antoni and Adam Hess will provide stability, and coach Rick Boyages needs Gs Sherman Rivers and Reid Markham to blossom. Whoever plays on the perimeter must become more creative and careful with the ball. Hess can expect help from junior F Zeb Cope and touted freshman F Jack Jenkins.
Key players: Zeb Cope, F, 6-9/Jr. (4.5 ppg); Nick D'Antoni, G, 6-0/So. (6.9 ppg); Adam Hess, F, 6-8/Jr. (11 ppg); Reid Markham, G, 6-3/Jr. (6.7 ppg); Sherman Rivers, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.8 ppg).
Top newcomers: Jack Jenkins, F, 6-7/Fr.; Nate Loehrke, C, 6-10/RFr.
Key losses: Mike Johnson, F (11.5 pg, 7.5 rpg, 41.2 FG%, 37.4 3PT%); Tom Strohbehn, F/C (44.2 FG%); Cody Carbaugh, G.
Coach: Rick Boyages (21-36, 2 years; 66-85, 6 years).
Last league title: 1998 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Williamsburg, Va.
Home court: William and Mary Hall (8,600).
Website: www.TribeAthletics.com

10. Towson, National Rank: 302

Outlook: By midseason, the Tigers could well have the top backcourt in the conference. The big question is whether the people up front can provide adequate support for the guards or whether opponents will feast inside. Senior Brian Allen, a strong defender and good ballhandler, likely will move to shooting guard in order to accommodate transfer PG Jamaal Gilchrist, who started for Texas A&M as a freshman. Senior Keon Blanks likely will handle the other wing spot and needs to improve his shooting accuracy. Throw in senior Gerald Weatherspoon, a solid wing reserve, and you have the makings of a strong perimeter. Now for the bad news. Coach Michael Hunt will rely heavily on 6-10 Jacob McCartney and 6-8 Stephen Warner, a pair of freshmen, for major contributions up front. He also needs 7-0 sophomore Derrick Goode to continue developing.
Key players: Brian Allen, G, 5-11/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 5.3 apg); Keon Blanks, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (4.1 rpg); Derrick Goode, C, 7-0/So. (4.0rpg); Gerald Weatherspoon, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.3 ppg).
Top newcomers: Jamaal Gilchrist, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/Texas A&M); Jacob McCartney, C, 6-10/Fr.; Stephen Warner, F, 6-8/Fr.
Key losses: Sam Sutton, F/G (12.6 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 44.7 FG%); Mike Shin, C (5.4 rpg, 46.0 FG%, 1.9 bpg).
Coach: Michael Hunt (11-18, 1 year).
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Towson, Md.
Home court: Towson Center (5,000).
Website: www.towsontigers.com

Colonial Schedules

Delaware
N22 at La Salle
D1 Long Island
D3 Pennsylvania
D9 at Saint Joseph's
D14 Rider
D19 UNC Greensboro
D21 at Siena
D27-28 Oneida Classic
J2 at George Mason
J4 at James Madison
J8 at William & Mary
J11 VCU
J15 at Old Dominion
J18 UNC Wilmington
J22 Drexel
J25 Towson
J29 at Hofstra
F1 William & Mary
F5 George Mason
F8 at UNC Wilmington
F12 James Madison
F15 at VCU
F19 Hofstra
F22 Old Dominion
F26 at Drexel
M1 at Towson

Drexel
N22 at Villanova
N27 at Monmouth
D3 at Lafayette
D7 Saint Joseph's
D21 at Niagara
D23 Colgate
D28 Philadelphia
J2 at James Madison
J4 at George Mason
J8 at VCU
J11 UNC Wilmington
J15 William & Mary
J18 Towson
J22 at Delaware
J25 Hofstra
J29 Old Dominion
F1 at UNC Wilmington
F5 at Hofstra
F8 at Towson
F12 VCU
F15 James Madison
F19 at Old Dominion
F23 at William & Mary
F26 Delaware
M1 George Mason

George Mason
N22 at Central Michigan
N24 at Southern Illinois
N30 Mississippi
D2 Duquesne
D4 at Coppin State
D7 Niagara
D19 at East Carolina
D23 Hartford
D28 at Pittsburgh
J2 Delaware
J4 Drexel
J8 at Hofstra
J11 at Towson
J15 VCU
J18 at James Madison
J22 at Old Dominion
J25 William & Mary
J27 UNC Wilmington
F1 Towson
F5 at Delaware
F8 at VCU
F12 Hofstra
F15 at William & Mary
F19 at UNC Wilmington
F22 James Madison
F24 Old Dominion
M1 at Drexel

Hofstra
N22 at Gonzaga
N25 St. Francis (N.Y.)
N30-D1 Hofstra Tour.
D7 Monmouth
D14 at St. John's
D21 at Stony Brook
D23 Manhattan
D28 at St. Peter's
J2 at VCU
J4 at UNC Wilmington
J8 George Mason
J11 James Madison
J15 at Towson
J18 Old Dominion
J22 at William & Mary
J25 at Drexel
J29 Delaware
F1 at James Madison
F5 Drexel
F8 William & Mary
F12 at George Mason
F15 UNC Wilmington
F19 at Delaware
F22 VCU
F26 Towson

James Madison
N22 at Furman
N25 at Georgetown
N30 at West Virginia
D3 La Salle
D5 at Davidson
D7 Akron
D16 Florida State
D20-22 San Juan S.O.
D30 Appalachian St.
J2 Drexel
J4 Delaware
J8 at Towson
J11 at Hofstra
J15 UNC Wilmington
J18 George Mason
J22 at VCU
J25 at Old Dominion
J29 William & Mary
F1 Hofstra
F5 at UNC Wilmington
F8 Old Dominion
F13 at Delaware
F15 at Drexel
F19 Towson
F22 at George Mason
F26 VCU
M1 at William & Mary

UNC Wilmington
N22 at Texas Tech
N26 at Texas-San Antonio
N30 East Tenn. State
D2 at Fairfield
D7 at Dayton
D11 Campbell
D21 Texas-San Antonio
D23 at Charleston
D30 at Jacksonville
J4 Hofstra
J8 Old Dominion
J11 at Drexel
J15 at James Madison
J18 at Delaware
J22 Towson
J25 at VCU
J27 at George Mason
F1 Drexel
F5 James Madison
F8 Delaware
F12 at Old Dominion
F15 at Hofstra
F19 George Mason
F22 at Towson
F24 at William & Mary
M1 VCU
M3 William & Mary

Old Dominion
N24 North Carolina
N26 Campbell
D1 at Saint Joseph's
D4 at Hampton
D7 East Carolina
D14 Md.-Eastern Shore
D20 Dayton
D28 at G. Washington
J2 Towson
J4 at VCU
J8 at UNC Wilmington
J11 William & Mary
J15 Delaware
D18 at Hofstra
J22 George Mason
J25 James Madison
J29 at Drexel
F1 VCU
F5 at William & Mary
F8 at James Madison
F12 UNC Wilmington
F15 at Towson
F19 Drexel
F22 at Delaware
F24 at George Mason
M1 Hofstra

Towson
N30 at Georgetown
D3 at Rider
D5 at Morgan State
D11 Md.-Eastern Shore
D14 Norfolk State
D22 G. Washington
D30 at Virginia Tech
J2 at Old Dominion
J4 at William & Mary
J8 James Madison
J11 George Mason
J15 Hofstra
J18 at Drexel
J22 at UNC Wilmington
J25 at Delaware
J29 VCU
F1 at George Mason
F5 at VCU
F8 Drexel
F12 William & Mary
F15 Old Dominion
F19 at James Madison
F22 UNC Wilmington
F26 at Hofstra
M1 Delaware

VCU
N26 at Western Ky.
N30 Wagner
D3 North Carolina A&T
D7 Richmond
D14 at Mississippi
D19 Hampton
D21 TCU
J2 Hofstra
J4 Old Dominion
J8 Drexel
J11 at Delaware
J15 at George Mason
J18 at William & Mary
J22 James Madison
J25 UNC Wilmington
J29 at Towson
F1 at Old Dominion
F5 Towson
F8 George Mason
F12 at Drexel
F15 Delaware
F19 William & Mary
F22 at Hofstra
F26 at James Madison
M1 at UNC Wilmington

William & Mary
N22 Fordham
N24 Radford
N26 at Liberty
N30 at East Carolina
D7 Viginia Tech
D22 Morgan State
D30 at Campbell
J2 Charleston Southern
J4 Towson
J8 Delaware
J11 at Old Dominion
J15 at Drexel
J18 VCU
J22 Hofstra
J25 at George Mason
J29 at James Madison
F1 at Delaware
F3 at Hampton
F5 Old Dominion
F8 at Hofstra
F12 at Towson
F15 George Mason
F19 at VCU
F22 Drexel
F24 UNC Wilmington
M1 James Madison
M3 at UNC Wilmington

Rank 20

By Joey Fosko, Paducah (Ky.) Sun

Ohio Valley

PREDICTIONS

1. Murray State*
2. Tennessee Tech
3. Morehead State
4. Eastern Illinois
5. Austin Peay
6. SE Missouri State
7. Tennessee State
8. Eastern Kentucky
9. Tennessee-Martin

*NCAA tourney pick

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Henry Domercant, E. Illinois	6-4	200	Sr.
G	Ricky Minard, Morehead State	6-4	191	Jr.
G	Cameron Crisp, Tenn. Tech	6-4	190	Jr.
F	Cuthbert Victor, Murray State	6-5	190	Jr.
C	Damien Kinloch, Tenn. Tech	6-8	230	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Garrett Richardson, Tenn. St.	6-3	180	Jr.
G	Brent Jolly, Tennessee Tech	6-6	185	Sr.
G	Marquis Sykes, Morehead St.	6-0	173	Jr.
F	Jason Harrell, Tennessee Tech	6-8	200	Jr.
C	James Singleton, Murray State	6-8	215	Sr.

Player of the Year

Henry Domercant, Eastern Illinois

Newcomer of the Year

Rick Jones, G, Murray State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Henry Domercant, E. Illinois
Best playmaker: Cameron Crisp, Tenn. Tech
Best dunker: James Singleton, Murray St.
Best NBA prospect: Henry Domercant, E. Illinois
Most likely to blossom: Anthony Davis, A. Peay
Best rebounder: Damien Kinloch, Tenn. Tech
Best defender: Marquis Sykes, Morehead St.
Best game coach: Rick Samuels, E. Illinois
Most versatile: Cuthbert Victor, Murray St.
Will take a charge: Adrian Henning, A. Peay

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Tennessee Tech^	15	1	27	7
Morehead State	11	5	18	11
Murray State*	10	6	19	13
Austin Peay	8	8	14	18
Tennessee-Martin	7	9	15	14
Eastern Illinois	7	9	15	16
Tennessee State	7	9	11	16
SE Missiouri State	4	12	6	22
Eastern Kentucky	3	13	7	20

*Lost to Georgia in NCAA East first round.
^Lost to Memphis in NIT quarterfinals.

1. Murray State, National Rank: 86

Outlook: Conference bylaws don't dictate that the road to the Ohio Valley title goes through Murray State—it only seems that way. The Racers have won or shared the league title 12 of the last 15 seasons. Coach Tevester Anderson has another loaded club that will be tested by a tough non-conference schedule. F James Singleton, the league's most athletic big man, led the league in rebounding and will be the focus of the offense. Cuthbert Victor, a great low-post scorer, reportedly improved his outside game over the summer while playing for Anderson on the Virgin Islands national team. G Rick Jones shot 40 percent from 3-point range as a freshman at Vanderbilt but must shake off rust after missing two seasons because of personal and academic concerns. Kevin Paschel mans the point, and G Antonio Henderson provides scoring, rebounding, hustle and defense off the bench. Wings Antione Whelchel and Chris Shumate may have to share a spot, giving the Racers the league's best seven-man rotation.

Key players: James Singleton, F, 6-8/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 10.1 rpg, 59.7 FG%, 78.7 FT%); Cuthbert Victor, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 54.7 FG%); Antione Whelchel, F, 6-5/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 3.2 apg, 76.7 FT%).
Top newcomer: Shawn Witherspoon, F, 6-5/Fr.
Key losses: Justin Burdine, G (20.4 ppg, 43.1 FG%, 37.4 3PT%).
Coach: Tevester Anderson (86-40, 4 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2000.
Last time did not make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Murray, Ky. **Home court:** Regional Special Events Center (8,600). **Website:** www.goracers.com

2. Tennessee Tech, National Rank: 90

Outlook: The last two seasons, Golden Eagles fans have felt pretty empty come March—back-to-back regular-season titles weren't followed by NCAA Tournament appearances. Tech did reach the NIT quarterfinals last season under coach Jeff Lebo, who left for Chattanooga. New coach Mike Sutton inherits a talented starting five, including the backcourt combo of PG Cameron Crisp, combo G Leigh Gayden and SG Brent Jolly. Tech sometimes falls in love with the 3-pointer, but it can get away with it if Jolly returns to the form of his sophomore season, when he averaged nearly 13 points a game. Senior Damien Kinloch, who transferred from South Carolina, was the OVC newcomer and a first-team league pick last season. With its top seven players this season all seniors, this could be Tech's chance to dance.

Key players: Cameron Crisp, G, 6-4/Jr. (12.3 ppg, 3.6 apg, 44.0 FG%, 46.2 3PT%, 79.2 FT%); Jason Harrell, F, 6-8/Jr. (10 ppg, 40.0 FG%, 35.2 3PT%, 75.0 FT%, 5.3 rpg); Brent Jolly, G, 6-6/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 35.8 3PT%, 92.7 FT%); Damien Kinloch, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (16.2 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 58.9 FG%).
Top newcomer: Milone Clark, G, 6-4/Fr.
Key losses: Joey Westmoreland, F (5.8 rpg, 58.3 FG%, 38.2 3PT%); DeAntoine Beasley, F (3.1 apg, 55.5 FG%)
Coach: Mike Sutton (1st year).
Last league title: 2002.
Last NCAA appearance: 1963.
Site: Cookeville, Tenn. **Home court:** Eblen Center (10,250). **Website:** www.tntech.edu/athletics

3. Morehead State, National Rank: 145

Outlook: Patience—and a recruiting connection to Mansfield, Ohio—have given coach Kyle Macy his first legitimate Ohio Valley contender. Ricky Minard and Marquis Sykes, teammates at Mansfield High, comprise the league's best backcourt. Minard can shoot the 3-pointer or take the ball to the basket, and Sykes is a defensive star with a better than 2-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio. Also returning are G Kyle Hankins, who won't make many mistakes, solid interior player Ike Lopez and sharpshooting G Chez Marks. If the Eagles develop a power game, an NCAA berth is possible.

Key players: Ricky Minard, G, 6-4/Jr. (22.3 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 3.3 apg, 49.6 FG%, 38.9 3PT%, 78.4 FT%); Ike Lopez, C/F, 6-9/Sr. (6.1 rpg, 57.1 FG%, 81.0 FT%); Marquis Sykes, G, 6-0/Jr. (6.5 apg, 48.7 FG%, 88.0 FT%).
Top newcomers: Anton Kerley, C, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/JC); Craig Lewis, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Kyle Umberger, F (13.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 51.2 FG%).
Coach: Kyle Macy (55-83, 5 years).
Last league title: 1984.
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Site: Morehead, Ky. **Home court:** Johnson Arena (6,500). **Website:** www.msueagles.com

4. Eastern Illinois, National Rank: 199

Outlook: The OVC hasn't seen many players like Henry Domercant, a strong, muscular swingman who can score from virtually anywhere and has a knack for drawing contact and getting to the free-throw line. The Panthers' motion-screen offense gives him plenty of scoring chances, but coach Rick Samuels' biggest problem is finding him offensive support. When Domercant struggles, things can get ugly, like they did in last year's 47-point loss at Murray State in the first round of the league tournament. The situation should improve if Jason Wright wins the point guard job outright, freeing J.R. Reynolds to play shooting guard. Samuels only asks his inside players to defend and rebound, and Jesse Mackinson, Jan Thompson and crew are capable of that.

Key players: Henry Domercant, G, 6-4/Sr. (26.4 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 43.7 FG%, 38.7 3PT%, 89.2 FT%); Jesse Mackinson, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (5.2 rpg, 51.8 FG%, 75.0 FT%).
Top newcomers: Joey Cortez, G, 6-4/Fr.; Josh Gomes, G, 6-3/Fr.; David Roos, F, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Todd Bergman, F (44.0 FG%).
Coach: Rick Samuels (311-296, 22 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Charleston, Ill. **Home court:** Lantz Arena (5,300). **Website:** www.eiu.edu/~sprtinfo/

5. Austin Peay, National Rank: 209

Outlook: Without G Nick Stapleton, the Governors won't be nearly as flamboyant and fun to watch, but a steady, workmanlike effort could produce a surprise contender. F Adrian Henning, one of four returning starters, is a dependable, versatile player who doesn't mind doing the little things, but he will have to step up his scoring. G Anthony Davis seems the most likely to emerge as a go-to guy, but he'll need help from Henning and G Rhet Wierzba, the team's best pure shooter. C Josh Lewis is a defensive force inside, and Bobbye Hill provides bulk and rebounding. If Corey Gipson or Maurice Hampton excel at point guard, the Governors could be dangerous by March.

Key players: Anthony Davis, F, 6-2/So. (11.2 ppg, 41.8 FG%); Adrian Henning, F, 6-6/Jr. (10.0 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 50.9 FG%); Josh Lewis, C, 6-8/Jr. (7.4 rpg,

2.1 bpg, 61.4 FG%)
Top newcomers: Corey Gipson, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/JC); Maurice Hampton, G, 6-2/Fr.; Zac Schlader, C, 6-9/Fr.
Key loss: Nick Stapleton, G (23.2 ppg, 44.9 FG%)
Coach: Dave Loos (175-173, 12 years; 257-226 overall, 16 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Clarksville, Tenn. **Home court:** Dunn Center (9,000). **Website:** www.apsu.edu/letsgopeay

6. Southeast Missouri State, National Rank: 237

Outlook: The Indians played well down the stretch last season, creating some optimism in a program that crashed hard after reaching the NCAA Tournament two years ago. But they probably are a year away from challenging for the conference title. G Derek Winans had a solid freshman season and looks like a future star. Hard-working F Tim Scheer excels in coach Gary Garner's defense-first system. The Indians could be a spoiler if any of three junior college transfers—Dainmon Gonner, Brandon Griffin or Reggie Golson—step forward in the frontcourt.
Key players: Tim Scheer, F, 6-7/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 46.8 FG%, 36.0 3PT%, 83.3 FT%); Derek Winans, G, 6-2/So. (14.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.0 apg, 45.0 FG%, 36.6 3PT%, 79.7 FT%).
Top newcomers: Reggie Golson, F, 6-7, Jr. (transfer/JC.); Brandon Griffin, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer).
Key loss: Drew DeMond, F (10.2 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 56.7 FG%, 78.6 FT%).
Coach: Gary Garner (82-63, 5 years; 329-226 overall, 19 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2000.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Cape Girardeau, Mo. **Home court:** Show Me Center (7,000). **Website:** www.gosoutheast.com

7. Tennessee State, National Rank: 243

Outlook: Coach Nolan Richardson III is putting together an outfit in Nashville that he hopes eventually will emulate the "40 Minutes of Hell" his father made famous at Arkansas. The talent wasn't there last year, and Richardson admitted his roster had too many supporting players. One player who can be more than a role player is G Garrett Richardson, the coach's nephew and a solid scorer and passer. The arrival of PG Adrian Pritchett will allow Garrett Richardson to move to the wing full time. The Tigers still are a work in progress, but their style causes plenty of headaches.
Key players: Roshaun Bowens, F, 6-6/So. (10.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 47.9 FG%); Josh Copperwood, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 46.4 FG%, 45.2 3PT%, 83.6 FT%); Garrett Richardson, G, 6-3/Jr. (14.1 ppg, 4.5 apg, 41.9 FG%, 76.5 FT%).
Top newcomers: Adrian Pritchett, G, 5-10/Fr.; Cedric Bryson, C, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key loss: Kyle Rolston, F (15.9 ppg, 55.2 FG%, 40.7 3PT%, 80.5 FT%).
Coach: Nolan Richardson III (21-36, 2 years).
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Nashville, Tenn. **Home court:** Gentry Center (10,500). **Website:** www.teamstsu.com

8. Eastern Kentucky, National Rank: 272

Outlook: The Colonels, predicted to finish in the middle of the pack last season, ended up dead last and failed to make the conference tournament. It's easy to pinpoint the problem—woeful outside shooting. Eastern hit worse than 30 percent from beyond the arc and had no reliable inside game to provide assistance. SG Shawn Fields is an explosive player, but he might be better served taking the ball to the basket more often, and the hope is transfer G Mike Scott can provide reliable ballhandling and scoring at the point.
Key players: Shawn Fields, G, 6-3/Sr. (16.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 75.2 FT%); Michael Haney, G/F, 6-6/So. (11.7 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 50.2 FG%, 78.8 FT%).
Top newcomer: Mike Scott, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Spanky Parks, G (11.0 ppg, 43.0 FG%); Clinton Sims, F (3.3 apg).
Coach: Travis Ford (14-39, 2 years).
Last league title: 1979.
Last NCAA appearance: 1979.
Site: Richmond, Ky. **Home court:** McBrayer Arena (6,500). **Website:** www.ekusports.com

9. Tennessee-Martin, National Rank: 284

Outlook: With roughly 75 percent of the Skyhawks' scoring from last season having departed, coach Bret Campbell has a Herculean rebuilding job ahead. The first order of business is rediscovering G/F Okechi Egbe's game. Egbe was the league's 2000 freshman of the year and when his shooting went south last season, so did his playing time. G Jeremy Kelly is a hustler and a capable defender, and transfer Earl Bullock was a good point guard at the junior college level. But unless several players step up their games, it could be a rough year.
Key player: Okechi Egbe, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (45.8 FG%); Joey Walker, F, 6-6/Jr. (4.5 rpg, 57.6 FG%).
Top newcomer: Earl Bullock, G, 6-1, Jr. (transfer/JC).
Key losses: Brian Foster, F (14.1 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 47.9 FG%); Jeremy Sargent, F (13.4 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 51.1 FG%); Jair Peralta, G (12.1 ppg, 5.3 apg, 81.8 FT%)
Coach: Bret Campbell (35-51, 3 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Martin, Tenn. **Home court:** Skyhawk Arena (6,700). **Website:** www.utmsports.com

Ohio Valley Schedules

Austin Peay

N23 at Memphis
N25 Bluefield College
N30 at Missouri
D4 at Mississippi
D7 Knoxville
D16 Belmont
D19 at Evansville
D21 at Middle Tennessee
D27-28 Oneida Classic
J4 Westminster (Mo.)
J9 at Tenn.-Martin
J11 at Murray State
J16 at Tennessee Tech
J18 at Tennessee State
J23 Eastern Illinois
J25 Southeast Missouri
J27 Tennessee-Martin
J30 at Morehead State
F1 at Eastern Kentucky
F8 Murray State
F13 Tenessee State
F15 Tennessee Tech
F20 at Eastern Illinois
F22 at SE Missouri St.
F27 Eastern Kentucky
M1 Morehead State

Eastern Illinois

N18-29 Preseason NIT
N24 at Illinois-Chicago
N26 at Marquette
N30 Evansville
D5 Western Illinois
D7 at Indiana State
D10 at Illinois
D20-21 Hawaii Festival
D30 Northern Illinois
J4 at SE Missouri State
J9 at Morehead State
J11 at Eastern Kentucky
J16 Murray State
J18 Tennessee-Martin
J23 at Austin Peay
J25 Aurora
J30 Tennessee Tech
F1 Tennessee State
F4 SE Missouri State
F6 Eastern Kentucky
F8 Morehead State
F13 at Murray State
F15 at Tenn.-Martin
F20 Austin Peay
F27 at Tennessee State
M1 at Tennessee Tech

Eastern Kentucky

N27 Asbury
N30 at IUPU-Fort Wayne
D4 at Morris Brown
D14 at Xavier
D17-18 Minardi Classic
D21 Mount St. Joseph
J2 at Tennessee Tech
J4 at Tennessee State
J9 SE Missouri State
J11 Eastern Illinois
J18 Morehead State
J23 at Tenn.-Martin
J25 at Murray State
J29 Morris Brown
F1 Austin Peay
F6 at Eastern Illinois
F8 at SE Missouri State
F10 Tennessee State
F15 at Morehead State
F17 Tennessee Tech
F20 Murray State
F22 Tennessee-Martin
F27 at Austin Peay

Morehead State

N22 at Arizona State
N26 Taylor
N30 Asbury
D4 at Wright State
D7 at Texas A&M-C.C.
D14 at Ohio State
D17 Marshall
D23 at Alabama
D28 IUPUI
J2 at Tennessee State
J4 at Tennessee Tech
J9 Eastern Illinois
J11 SE Missouri State
J14 IUPU-Fort Wayne
J18 at Eastern Kentucky
J20 Tennessee State
J23 at Murray State
J25 at Tenn.-Martin
J30 Austin Peay
F1 Kentucky Christian
F6 at SE Missouri State
F8 at Eastern Illinois
F10 Tennessee Tech
F15 Eastern Kentucky
F20 Tennessee-Martin
F22 Murray State
M1 at Austin Peay

Murray State

N22 West Florida
N25 SIU-Edwardsville
D3 at Southern Illinois
D7 Western Kentucky
D14 at Auburn
D16 at Middle Tennessee
D18 Indiana State
D21 at Evansville
D28 at Memphis
D30 Middle Tennessee
J4 at Southern Miss.
J9 Tennessee Tech
J11 Austin Peay
J16 at Eastern Illinois
J18 at SE Missouri State
J23 Morehead State
J25 Eastern Kentucky
J27 at Tennessee Tech
F1 Tennessee-Martin
F6 at Tennessee Tech
F8 at Austin Peay
F13 Eastern Illinois
F15 SE Missouri State
F20 at Eastern Kentucky
F22 at Morehead State
F24 Tennessee State
M1 at Tennesee-Martin

SE Missouri State

N22 at Arkansas State
N25 Central Methodist
N29-D1 Tulane Trn.
D4 Oakland
D7 Southern Illinois
D14 at UMKC
D17 at Ark.-Little Rock
D21 SW Missouri State
D29 at Creighton
J4 Eastern Illinois
J9 at Eastern Kentucky
J11 at Morehead State
J16 Tennessee-Martin
J18 Murray State
J21 at Western Illinois
J25 at Austin Peay
J30 Tennessee State
F1 Tennesee Tech
F4 at Eastern Illinois
F6 Morehead State
F8 Eastern Kentucky
F13 at Tenn.-Martin
F15 at Murray State
F18 at Western Illinois
F22 Austin Peay
F27 at Tennessee Tech
M1 at Tennessee State

Tennessee-Martin

N23 at Saint Louis
N25 Missouri Valley
N27 at Middle Tennessee
D5 at Union
D7 at Lipscomb
D14 Bethel
D15 Central Florida
D17 at UNLV
D21 at Northern Arizona
D30 at Tennessee
J6 Concordia
J9 Austin Peay
J11 Tennessee State
J16 at SE Missouri State
J18 at Eastern Illinois
J20 Tennessee Tech
J23 Eastern Kentucky
J25 Morehead State
J27 at Austin Peay
F1 at Murray State
F6 at Tennessee State
F8 at Tennessee Tech
F13 SE Missouri State
F15 Eastern Illinois
F20 at Morehead State
F22 at Eastern Kentucky
M1 Murray State

Tennessee State

N22 Trevecca Nazarene
N25 Fisk
N30 at Iowa
D3 Oral Roberts
D5 at Lipscomb
D16 at Georgia State
D18 at Morris Brown
D21 at UTEP
D28 at Ohio State
D30 at Kentucky
J2 Morehead State
J4 Eastern Kentucky
J11 at Tenn.-Martin
J18 Austin Peay
J20 at Morehead State
J23 Morris Brown
J25 at Tennessee Tech
J27 Murray State
J30 at SE Missouri State
F1 at Eastern Illinois
F6 Tennessee-Martin
F10 at Eastern Kentucky
F13 at Austin Peay
F22 Tennessee Tech
F24 at Murray State
F27 Eastern Illinois
M1 SE Missouri State

Tennessee Tech

N23 at Cincinnati
N25 Milligan
N27 Cumberland
D1 Air Force
D4 at Middle Tennessee
D7 at Ohio State
D14 at Creighton
D17 at Idaho State
D21 North Texas
D27-30 Rainbow Classic
J4 Morehead State
J9 at Murray State
J11 Bryan College
J14 Eastern Kentucky
J16 Austin Peay
J20 at Tenn.-Martin
J25 Tennessee State
J30 at Eastern Illinois
F1 at SE Missouri State
F6 Murray State
F8 Tennessee-Martin
F10 at Morehead State
F15 at Austin Peay
F17 at Eastern Kentucky
F22 at Tennessee State
F27 SE Missouri State
M1 Eastern Illinois

Rank 21

By Mark Eckel, The Times (Trenton, NJ.)

Ivy

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Andrew Toole, Pennsylvania	6-4	185	Sr.
G	Patrick Harvey, Harvard	5-11	179	Sr.
F	Earl Hunt, Brown	6-4	200	Sr.
F	Koko Archibong, Pennsylvania	6-7	215	Sr.
C	Ugonna Onyekwe, Pennsylvania	6-8	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

Ugonna Onykewe, Penn.

Newcomer of the Year

Zach Martin, F, Harvard

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Patrick Harvey, Harvard
Best playmaker: Andrew Toole, Pennsylvania
Best dunker: Ugonna Onyekwe, Pennsylvania
Best NBA prospect: Ugonna Onyekwe, Pennsylvania
Most likely to blossom: Edwin Draughn, Yale
Best rebounder: Chris Wiedemann, Columbia
Best defender: Ugonna Onyekwe, Pennsylvania
Best game coach: John Thompson, Princeton
Most versatile: Spencer Gloger, Princeton
Will take a charge: T.J. McHugh, Yale

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Pennsylvania*	11	3	25	7
Yale^	11	3	21	11
Princeton^^	11	4	16	12
Brown	8	6	17	10
Harvard	7	7	14	12
Columbia	4	10	11	17
Dartmouth	2	12	9	18
Cornell	2	12	5	22

*Lost to California in NCAA South first round.
^Lost to Tennessee Tech in NIT second round.
^^Lost to Louisville in first round of NIT.

1. Pennsylvania, National Rank: 29

Outlook: How dominant should the Quakers be this season? Imagine the Lakers with two Shaqs and a Kobe. That's what Penn has, in Ivy League terms. Ugonna Onyekwe and Koko Archibong are the league's two most dominant big men, and Andrew Toole is the conference's best guard. The Quakers' other players are pretty good, too. Jeff Schiffner, Tim Begley and David Klatsky are overshadowed by the Big Three but would all be major contributors on any other team in the league. Onyekwe, a possible first-round NBA draft pick, is the player the Quakers will rely on to take them further than the Ivy League title. This team shouldn't lose a league game.
Key players: Ugonna Onyekwe, F, 6-8/Sr. (17.5 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 55.1 FG%, 36.7 3PT%, 1.3 bpg); Koko Archibong, F, 6-7/Sr. (14.2 ppg, 51.0 FG%, 39.4 3PT%, 81.6 FT%, 5.7 rpg, 1 bpg); Andrew Toole, G, 6-4/Sr. (13.9 ppg, 45.5 FG%, 41.5 3PT%, 87.3 FT%, 3.6 apg).
Coach: Fran Dunphy (231-129, 13 years).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:**The Palestra (8,700).
Website: www.pennathletics.com

2. Yale, National Rank: 121

Outlook: Coach James Jones has done what he promised when he took over the Bulldogs three years ago. He has made them contenders. The problem is that this group would be good enough to win the Ivy most years but now faces a loaded Penn team. Edwin Draughn and Alex Gamboa form a very good Ivy backcourt, and tough guy T.J. McHugh, Paul Vitelli and Ime Archibong comprise a solid frontcourt. It's just not enough to stop Penn. So the Bulldogs, who return five starters from last year's NIT run, might have to win enough non-league games to persuade the NCAA committee to take a second Ivy team.
Key players: T.J. McHugh, F, 6-8/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 61.5 FG%, 5.4 rpg); Alex Gamboa, G, 6-0/So. (10.7 ppg, 44.6 FG%, 44.8 3PT%, 3.1 apg); Edwin Draughn, G, 6-5/So. (11.5 ppg, 39.7 FG%, 4 rpg, 2.6 apg); Paul Vitelli, 6-7/Jr. (10.2 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 38.7 FG%, 39.6 3PT%, 78.7 FT%); Ime Archibong, G/F, 6-3/Sr.
Coach: James Jones (38-43, 3 years).
Last league title: 2002.
Last NCAA appearance: 1962.
Site: New Haven, Conn. **Home court:** John J. Lee Amphitheater (3,100). **Website:** www.yale.edu/athletic

3. Princeton, National Rank: 154

Outlook: Somehow the Tigers, with their least talented team in years, managed to finish in a three-way tie for the league title last season. That will be tough to pull off again. Coach John Thompson does get a big-time player back in 6-5 G Spencer Gloger, who averaged 13 points and six rebounds in the 1999-2000 season before transferring to UCLA. Gloger returned to Princeton last year but had to sit out. Also coming back is F Andre Logan, who suffered a torn ACL early last season. Even with the added depth, it looks like an NIT season.
Key players: Spencer Gloger, G, 6-7/Jr., Andre Logan, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 3.9 rpg); Kyle Wente, G, 6-4/Sr. (6.8 ppg); Konrad Wysocki, F, 6-8/Jr. (7.0 ppg); Ray Robins, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 85.3 FT%); Will Venable, G, 6-2/So. (5.6 ppg).
Coach: John Thompson (32-23, 2 years).
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Princeton, N.J. **Home court:** Jadwin Gym (6,854). **Website:** www.goprincetontigers.com

4. Brown, National Rank: 208

Outlook: There probably is no better team than the Bears to show how much better the Ivy has gotten. This team could have competed for the league title in the past but is a third- or fourth-place team now. G Earl Hunt returns after leading the league in scoring last season and can get his points inside or outside. PG Jason Forte is a fine playmaker who can score. C Alai Nuualiitia gives the Bears a presence inside. Brown led the league in scoring average last season at 77.4 points per game, but it also allowed a league-high 74.0 points per game.
Key players: Earl Hunt, G, 6-4/Sr. (19.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 44.9 FG%, 39.5 3PT%, 84.1 FT%); Jason Forte, G, 6-0/So. (11.3 ppg, 4.5 apg, 40.8 FG%, 36.8 3PT%, 75.5 FT%); Alai Nuualiitia (11.2 ppg, 1 bpg, 6 rpg, 57.2 FG%, 46.7 3PT%).
Coach: Glen Miller (40-41, 3 years; 135-99 overall, 9 years).
Last league title: 1986.
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Providence, R.I. **Home court:** Pizitola Center (2,800). **Website:** www.brownbears.com

5. Harvard, National Rank: 216

Outlook: Good guy coach Frank Sullivan returns a decent nucleus from last year's 14-12 (7-7) team and has a nice recruiting class, but the best Harvard can hope for is probably third place.
SG Patrick Harvey, the Ivy's second-leading scorer at 18.1 points a game, will lead the attack. He teams with G Elliott Prasse-Freeman, the league assists leader. The freshman class includes four top recruits, with Zach Martin, a 6-5 forward, the cream of the crop. But 6-3 G Michael Beal, 6-8 F Brian Houlihan and lean, 6-11 C Sebastian Anderle could also help.
Key players: Patrick Harvey, G, 5-11/Sr. (18.1 ppg, 43.2 FG%, 37.9 3PT%, 80.6 FT%); Elliott Prasse-Freeman, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.0 rpg, 5.3 apg).
Coach: Frank Sullivan (125-162, 11 years; 239-248 overall, 18 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1946.
Site: Cambridge, Mass. **Home court:** Lavietes Pavilion (2,195). **Website:** ww.athletics.harvard.edu

6. Columbia, National Rank: 241

Outlook: Last year the Lions were supposed to contend for the league title or at least present a challenge for Penn and Princeton. But the senior-dominated team started slowly and struggled to an 11-17 record. One key player returns from last season, but he's good: C Chris Wiedemann. The Lions are counting on young players, such as 6-5 junior F Mario McCottry, to step up. The team also added two JC transfers: 5-11 PG Peter Nelson and 6-6 F Chris Owens. Coach Armond Hill played for Pete Carril and uses that same Princeton style of offense and tough defense. It just doesn't work as well in the city.
Key players: Chris Wiedemann, C, 6-10/Sr. (7.0 rpg, 45.7 FG%, 38.5 3PT%, 2.5 bpg); Marco McCottry, F, 6-5/Sr. (42.4 FG%, 38.5 3PT%).
Coach: Armond Hill (70-116, 7 years).
Last league title: 1968.
Last NCAA appearance: 1968.
Site: New York. **Home court:** Levien Gym (3,400).
Website: gocolumbialions.com

7. Cornell, National Rank: 266

Outlook: The Big Red upset soon-to-be league champ Princeton two years ago, but the results have been disappointing for coach Steve Donahue since. In his second season, the team went 5-22 and 2-12 in the Ivy. This year doesn't figure to be a whole lot better, but at least the team is young. Sophomore G Cody Toppert and junior G Ka'Ron Barnes are the top returning players. F Eric Taylor, a 6-7 sophomore who averaged 5.1 points last year, also will be counted on, as will F Chris Vandenberg, who's 6-10, 230. He played for the Canadian national team but tore his ACL last year and missed the season. If healthy, he could help keep the team out of the Ivy basement.
Key players: Cody Toppert, G, 6-4/So. (10.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 37.4 FG%, 91.4 FT%); Ka'Ron Barnes, G, 6-0/So. (76.3 FT%).
Coach: Steve Donahue (12-42, 2 years).
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Ithaca, N.Y. **Home court:** Newman Arena (4,473). **Website:** www.cornellbigred.com

8. Dartmouth, National Rank: 293

Outlook: It doesn't seem that long ago that Dartmouth was battling for the Ivy title, but hard times have hit, and after last season's 2-12 league record, it appears Dave Faucher's team will struggle again. Senior F Charles Harris, a defensive specialist when he came to the Big Green, is the leading scorer (10.8 ppg). Sophomore swingman Mike McLaren will look to contribute more, as will 6-5 F Greg Friel, 6-11 C Scott Klingbeil and 6-3 G Steve Callahan. Faucher also hopes two freshman can help: G Michael Lang and F Calvin Arnold.
Key players: Charles Harris, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 40 3PT%, 84.5 FT%); Mike McLaren, G/F, 6-3/So. (44.9 FG%, 43.6 3PT%).
Coach: Dave Faucher (125-164, 11 years).
Last league title: 1959.
Last NCAA appearance: 1959.
Site: Hanover, N.H. **Home court:** The Leede Arena (2,100). **Website:** www.dartmouth.edu/athletics

Ivy Schedules

Brown
N19-27 Guardians Cla.
N23 at Providence
N25 at Wagner
N30 at Navy
D2 Ohio
D5 Holy Cross
D9 at Rhode Island
D21 at Central Conn.
D28 at San Jose St.
D30 at St. Mary's (Ca.)
J4 at San Francisco
J8 Rider
J18 at Yale
J25 Yale
J28 at Stony Brook
J31 at Cornell
F1 at Columbia
F7 Harvard
F8 Dartmouth
F14 at Princeton
F15 at Pennsylvania
F21 Columbia
F22 Cornell
F28 Pennsylvania
M1 Princeton
M7 at Dartmouth
M8 at Harvard

Columbia
N18-29 Preseason NIT
N23 at Boston
N26 at Binghamton
N29-30 Auerbach Cla.
D3 Stony Brook
D6 Army
D9 at Lehigh
D27-28 SunClassic
J2 at Lafayette
J6 Sacred Heart
J9 at Massachusetts
J18 at Cornell
J25 Cornell
J31 Yale
F1 Brown
F7 Princeton
F8 Pennsylvania
F14 at Harvard
F15 at Dartmouth
F21 at Brown
F22 at Yale
F28 Dartmouth
M1 Harvard
M7 at Pennsylvania
M8 at Princeton

Cornell
N22 at Buffalo
N26 at Colgate
D2 Ithaca
D4 at Lehigh
D6 at Syracuse
D8 New Hampshire
D28 at La Salle
D30 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J3 at Army
J5 Lafayette
J8 at Georgia Tech
J13 Vermont
J18 Columbia
J21 Bucknell
J25 at Columbia
J31 Brown
F1 Yale
F7 Pennsylvania
F8 Princeton
F14 at Dartmouth
F15 at Harvard
F21 at Yale
F22 at Brown
F28 Harvard
M1 Dartmouth
M7 at Princeton
M8 at Pennsylvania

Dartmouth
N22 at Lehigh
N26 at Vermont
N30 Boston University
D3 Binghamton
D14 Worcester Poly.
D18 Quinnipiac
D21 at Hartford
D28-29 Poinsettia Cla.
J4 at Harvard
J7 Colgate
J11 Harvard
J15 New Hampshire
J21 at Holy Cross
J25 at Albany
J31 at Pennsylvania
F1 at Princeton
F7 at Yale
F8 at Brown
F14 Cornell
F15 Columbia
F21 Princeton
F22 Pennsylvania
F28 at Columbia
M1 at Cornell
M7 Brown
M8 Yale

Harvard
N22 at Fairfield
N26 Holy Cross
N30 at Stony Brook
D3 Boston U.
D7 Lehigh
D10 at Rider
D13 at Colgate
D17 Vermont
D19 Mercer
D22 at Boston College
D28-29 Spider Invit.
J4 Dartmouth
J11 at Dartmouth
J31 at Princeton
F1 at Pennsylvania
F7 at Brown
F8 at Yale
F14 Columbia
F15 Cornell
F21 Pennsylvania
F22 Princeton
F28 Cornell
M1 at Columbia
M7 Yale
M8 Brown

Pennsylvania
N23 Penn State
N30 Drexel
D3 at Delaware
D7 Temple
D10 at Villanova
D30 at Providence
J4 at Colorado
J8 American
J11 at USC
J18 vs. Monmouth*
J21 at Lafayette
J25 Saint Joseph's
J31 Dartmouth
F1 Harvard
F7 at Cornell
F8 at Columbia
F11 Princeton
F14 Yale
F15 Brown
F21 at Harvard
F22 at Dartmouth
F28 at Brown
M1 at Yale
M7 Columbia
M8 Cornell
M11 at Princeton
*at Asbury Park, N.J.

Princeton
N22-23 Sooner Invit.
N30 Florida Int'l
D3 at Monmouth
D7 at Lafayette
D14 Rutgers
D18 Rider
D22 at Texas
D27-28 Cable Car Cla.
J3 at Holy Cross
J7 Md.-Baltimore Co.
J27 Ursinus
J31 Harvard
F1 Dartmouth
F7 at Columbia
F8 at Cornell
F11 at Pennsylvania
F14 Brown
F15 Yale
F21 at Dartmouth
F22 at Harvard
F28 at Yale
M1 at Brown
M7 Cornell
M8 Columbia
M11 Pennsylvania

Yale
N22 at Oklahoma St.
N27 at Wake Forest
D1 at Penn State
D5 at Sacred Heart
D7 Manhattan*
D11-12 Phoenix Classic
D30 at Stanford
J2 at St. Mary's
J5 at Fairfield
J7 Rhode Island
J11 RPI
J17 Brown
J20 at Army
J25 at Brown
J31 at Columbia
F1 at Cornell
F7 Dartmouth
F8 Harvard
F14 at Pennsylvania
F15 at Princeton
F21 Cornell
F22 Columbia
F28 Princeton
M1 Pennsylvania
M8 at Harvard
M8 at Dartmouth
*at New York

Rank 22

By John Mutka, The Post-Tribune, Northwest Indiana

Mid-Continent

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tyrone Tiggs, Oral Roberts	5-11	175	Sr.
G	Mike Helms, Oakland	6-0	185	Jr.
G	Michael Watson, UMKC	6-1	185	Jr.
F	Reggie Borges, Oral Roberts	6-8	235	Sr.
C	Raitis Grafs, Valparaiso	6-11	230	Sr.

Player of the Year
Reggie Borges, Oral Roberts

Newcomer of the Year
Josh Murray, F, IUPUI

Honor roll
Best shooter: Bryan Buchanan, IUPUI
Best playmaker: Matthew Crenshaw, IUPUI
Best dunker: Kendrick Moore, Oral Roberts
Best NBA prospect: Raitis Grafs, Valparaiso
Most likely to blossom: Jay Collins, Southern Utah
Best rebounder: Clark Bone, Chicago State
Best defender: Luke Spencer-Gardner, Oral Roberts
Best game coach: Greg Kampe, Oakland
Most versatile: Reggie Borges, Oral Roberts
Will take a charge: Greg Tonagel, Valparaiso

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Valparaiso*	12	2	25	8
Oakland	10	4	17	13
Oral Roberts	10	4	17	14
Southern Utah	8	6	11	16
Missouri-Kansas City	7	7	18	11
IUPUI	6	8	15	15
Western Illinois	3	11	12	16
Chicago State	0	14	2	26

*Lost to Kentucky in first round of NCAA Tournament.

1. Oral Roberts, National Rank: 96

Outlook: The rising Golden Eagles boast four returning starters, including C Kendrick Moore, who ranked ninth nationally in blocks, and F Reggie Borges, the Mid-Continent Newcomer of the Year. Borges averaged 20.3 points in league play and helped the team recover from a 2-7 start. Luke Spencer-Gardner and Tyrone Tiggs form a clockwork backcourt tandem; both ranked in the league's top five in assists. C Matt Gaskel and G Josh Atkinson, who contributed greatly two years ago and redshirted in 2001-02, add depth. Gaskel, 6-11, provides bulk that can help combat Valparaiso's big men. G Corey Stokes, a transfer from Paris (Texas) JC, gives ORU another perimeter threat. This team's experience, talent and depth will be tough to beat.
Key players: Reggie Borges, F, 6-8/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 6.6 rpg; 57.0 FG%, 74.6 FT%); Luke Spencer-Gardner, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.0 apg, 40.3 FG%, 41.3 3PT%); Tyrone Tiggs, G, 5-11/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 4.3 apg, 42.7 FG%, 40.2 3PT%).
Coach: Scott Sutton (40-50, 3 years).
Last league title: 1984 (Midwestern Collegiate).
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Site: Tulsa, Okla. **Home court:** Mabee Center (10,575). **Website:** www.orugoldeneagles.com

2. Valparaiso, National Rank: 135

Outlook: Coach Homer Drew retired after posting 504 victories in 26 seasons at three schools, the last 14 at Valpo. His son, first-year coach Scott Drew, hopes to extend a legacy that includes six NCAA appearances in the last seven years. Replacing the leadership of all-conference stars Lubos Barton and Milos Stovall won't be easy, but it helps that 6-11 C Raitis Grafs decided to stick around for his senior year. Look for him to become more involved offensively, even if it means moving to power forward. Questions loom in the backcourt, especially at the point, where Ali Berdiel could be plugged in for the departed Jared Nuness. Three probable starters, C Antti Nikkila, F Joaquim Gomes and G Stalin Ortiz, could spell trouble at the free-throw line—all shot worse than 57 percent.
Key players: Raitis Grafs, C, 6-11/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 2.1 bpg, 57.2 FG%); Stalin Ortiz, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 48.3 FG%, 36.4 3PT%).
Coach: Scott Drew (first year).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time did not make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Valparaiso, Ind. **Home court:** Athletics-Rec. Center (4,500). **Website:** www.valpo.edu/athletics

3. IUPUI, National Rank: 144

Outlook: Eight players return from a team that reached the league tourney title game and posted an early-season win over Georgia Tech. Antoine Lewis, who gained all-newcomer honors, and Dannorris Harvey lead a formidable front line that should be bolstered by the addition of Ball State transfer Josh Murray. Murray averaged 8.2 points and 8.0 rebounds two seasons ago and is considered IUPUI's most athletic player. Marcus May, a transfer from Wright State and a high school teammate of Murray's, will push Matt Crenshaw, a 27-year-old junior, at point guard. If the newcomers can blend in without disrupting cohesion, the Jaguars are capable of leapfrogging ORU and Valparaiso for their first league title.
Key players: Matt Crenshaw, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.4 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 4.6 apg, 45 FG%, 50.0 3PT%); Antoine Lewis, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 56.9 FG%); Josh Murray, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/Ball State).
Coach: Ron Hunter (116-110, 7 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Indianapolis. **Home court:** IUPUI Gymnasium (2,000). **Website:** www.iupui.edu/~jagsport

4. Missouri-Kansas City, National Rank: 166

Outlook: The conference tournament is moving from Fort Wayne, Ind., to Kansas City, but the Kangaroos don't look strong enough to cash in on their home advantage. The Kangaroos still will rely on their suffocating 2-3 "amoeba" zone, which has helped them rank among the top 20 nationally in scoring defense the last two years, but G Michael Watson is their only proven scorer. Newcomers who could make an immediate impact are F Jeffrey Bramble of South Nebraska C.C., F James Williams, who averaged 18 points and eight rebounds last season at Eastern Oklahoma State, and G Brandon Temple, who averaged six assists at Southwest Missouri-West Plains. Temple transfer Carlton Aaron is the team's big man at 6-10, 300 pounds, but he didn't play for the Owls.
Key players: Michael Watson, G, 6-1/Jr. (21.9 ppg, 35.3 FG%, 78.9 FT%); Tom Curtis, F, 6-9/Sr. (2.9 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 52.1 FG%); Randall Atchison, F, 6-5/Sr. (3.3 ppg, 1.5 rpg).
Coach: Rich Zvosec (18-11, 1 year; 121-157 overall, 10 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Kansas City, Mo. **Home court:** Municipal Auditorium (9,827).
Website: www.umkckangaroos.com

5. Southern Utah, National Rank: 180

Outlook: With little height, the Thunderbirds must compensate with big scoring numbers. Newcomer David Palmer, who averaged 19.1 points and 9.5 rebounds last season in junior college, may provide an outside threat, and G Al Williams, who averaged 11.9 points and 4.6 rebounds last year in junior college, also could add firepower. But the team still will lack the inside firepower for a run at a second league title in three years unless 6-9 C Nic Fitzgerald, rejoining the team after a yearlong church mission, contributes a lot.
Key players: Jay Collins, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 44.9 FG%, 39.8 3PT%, 79.5 FT%); Donnie Jackson, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.4 rpg, 42.0 FG%).
Coach: Bill Evans (149-139, 10 years).
Last league title: 2001.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Cedar City, Utah. **Home court:** Centrum (5,300). **Website:** www.suu.edu/athletics

6. Oakland, National Rank: 194

Outlook: A perimeter team for several years, the Grizzlies should be more physical this season. They'll hammer underneath with freshman Fs Dave Ritzema and Courtney Williams and wide-bodied C Shawn Hopes (6-7, 270), all in-state products. With some experience, the Grizzlies should be dangerous. Oakland is excited about the arrival of F Courtney Scott, a transfer from Iowa who became disenchanted playing behind Reggie Evans. For all the good news, this team will be scratching for offense. Mike Helms, the only returning starter from Oakland's most successful league season, will need help generating points.
Key players: Mike Helms, G, 6-0/Jr. (18.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 43.9 FG%); Jourdan Sabourin, C, 7-0/Jr. (4 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 50 FG%); Kelly Williams, F, 6-5/Jr. (3.6 ppg, 4 rpg).
Coach: Greg Kampe (306-208, 18 years).
Last league title: 2000.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Rochester, Mich. **Home court:** Student Athl. Center (3,000). **Website:** www.ougrizzlies.com

7. Western Illinois, National Rank: 240

Outlook: Coach Jim Kerwin tried 14 different lineups last season to varying degrees of success. A weak defense—last in the league in steals, seventh in blocked shots—betrayed the Leathernecks. It won't be easy to turn things around, especially with Brian Williams, the team's leader in assists and steals, gone, along with their top four scorers. To avoid its fourth consecutive seventh-place finish, Western needs G Ray Harris, who averaged 18 points and six assists last season for San Joaquin Delta Community College, to plug the gap left by Williams. The Leathernecks won't find it easy to reverse a downward trend capped by 11 losses in their last 13 games.
Key players: Shawn Mason, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 49.7 FG%); J.D. Summers, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (4.0 rpg, 35.7 FG%, 75.5 FT%).
Coach: Jim Kerwin (128-153, 10 years).
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Macomb, Ill. **Home court:** Western Hall (5,137). **Website:** www.wiu.edu/athletics

8. Chicago State, National Rank: 323

Outlook: The Cougars, perennially the league doormat, must eliminate mistakes if they want to move up. Last season, they were last in the league in turnover margin and assist-to-turnover ratio. This season, improved ballhandling may be too much to expect. Four guards were brought in, but no returning player has even a minute of D-I experience in the backcourt. The front line includes Clark Bone, the league's top rebounder.
Key players: Clark Bone, C, 6-8/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 53.2 FG%); Rubeen Perry, F, 6-9/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 71.4 FT%).
Coach: Bo Ellis (20-91, 4 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** Jacoby C. Dickens Center (2,500). **Website:** www.csu.edu/athletics

Mid-Continent Schedules

Chicago State
N14-16 BCA Invitational
N23 at Buffalo
N26 at Wichita State
D3 at Wis.-Green Bay
D11 at Colorado
D14 at Denver
D19 Central Florida
D21 Northern Iowa
D23 Texas Southern
J4 at Wisconsin
J9 UMKC
J11 Oral Roberts
J14 Wis.-Milwaukee
J16 at Western Illinois
J18 at Valparaiso
J21 IUPU-Ft. Wayne
J25 at Southern Utah
J30 Oakland
F1 IUPUI
F6 at Oral Roberts
F8 at UMKC
F13 Valparaiso
F15 Western Illinois
F20 at IUPU-Ft. Wayne
F27 at Oakland
M1 at IUPUI

IUPUI
N19-22 Guardians Cl.
N23 St. Joseph's (Ind.)
N27 at Northwestern
N29-D1 Tulane Tour.
D3 at Ball State
D6-7 Boilermaker Invit.
D14 Western Michigan
D18 at Cleveland State
D21 Bradley
D28 at Morehead State
J4 at Michigan
J7 at IUPU-Ft. Wayne
J11 Oakland
J16 at Oral Roberts
J18 at UMKC
J23 Valparaiso
J25 Western Illinois
J30 at Southern Utah
F1 at Chicago State
F5 Lipscomb
F8 at Oakland
F13 UMKC
F15 Oral Roberts
F20 at Western Illinois
F22 at Valparaiso
F27 Southern Utah
M1 Chicago State

UMKC
N22 Robert Morris
N26 at Norfolk State
D3 at Denver
D7 Colorado
D10 at Loyola (Ill.)
D14 SE Missouri State
D18 at Oklahoma State
D21 Youngstown State
D27-28 Gossner Classic
D31 Monmouth
J4 Kansas
J9 at Chicago State
J11 at Southern Utah
J16 Oakland
J18 IUPUI
J22 at SW Missouri St.
J25 Oral Roberts
J30 at Western Illinois
F1 at Valparaiso
F6 Southern Utah
F8 Chicago State
F13 at IUPUI
F15 at Oakland
F22 at Oral Roberts
F27 Valparaiso
M1 Western Illinois

Oakland
N26 IUPU-Ft. Wayne
N30 Akron
D2 at Texas A&M
D4 Adrian
D19 at Bowling Green
D22 Air Force
D27-28 Islander Classic
D30 Jacksonville State
J4 at Illinois
J6 Youngstown State
J11 at IUPUI
J16 at UMKC
J18 at Oral Roberts
J23 Western Illinois
J25 Valparaiso
J27 Texas A&M-C.C.
J30 at Chicago State
F1 Southern Utah
F8 IUPUI
F13 Oral Roberts
F15 UMKC
F20 at Valparaiso
F22 Western Illinois
F27 Chicago State
M1 Southern Utah

Oral Roberts
N26 Arkansas
N30 Wichita State
D2 at Tennessee State
D4 SMU
D7 at Miss. Valley State
D14 at Stephen F. Austin
D19 at Tulsa
D21 Mississippi Valley St.
D29-30 State Farm Cl.
J2 at Minnesota
J4 Colgate
J9 at Southern Utah
J11 at Chicago State
J16 IUPUI
J18 Oakland
J25 at UMKC
J30 at Valparaiso
F1 at Western Illinois
F6 Chicago State
F8 Southern Utah
F13 at Oakland
F15 at IUPUI
F22 UMKC
F27 Western Illinois
M1 Valparaiso

Southern Utah
N22 at Utah
N25 Montana Tech
N30 Cal St. Sacramento
D4 Long Beach State
D7 Boise State
D14 Northern Arizona
D21 at New Mexico
D28 at BYU
D30 at Montana
J4 at Northern Arizona
J9 Oral Roberts
J11 UMKC
J16 at Valparaiso
J18 at Western Illinois
J25 Chicago State
J30 IUPUI
F1 Oakland
F6 at UMKC
F8 at Oral Roberts
F13 Western Illinois
F15 Valparaiso
F22 at Chicago State
F27 at IUPUI
M1 at Oakland

Valparaiso
N24 at Syracuse
N26 Indiana State
N30 Northern Illinois
D7 at Loyola (Ill.)
D10 at Wis.-Milwaukee
D14 Samford
D20 Belmont
D23 Central Michigan
D28 at Purdue
D30 at Missouri
J4 Notre Dame
J7 Charlotte
J11 Western Illinois
J16 Southern Utah
J18 Chicago State
J23 at IUPUI
J25 at Oakland
J30 Oral Roberts
F1 UMKC
F8 at Western Illinois
F13 at Chicago State
F15 at Southern Utah
F20 Oakland
F22 IUPUI
F27 at UMKC
M1 at Oral Roberts

Western Illinois
N22 at Hampton
N24 at Norfolk State
N26 at SE Missouri State
N30 at Illinois
D6-7 Cyclone Chall.
D14 at Drake
D18 at Bradley
D20 at Liberty
D23 SE Missouri State
D30 at Wichita State
J11 at Valparaiso
J16 Chicago State
J18 Southern Utah
J23 at Oakland
J25 at IUPUI
J30 UMKC
F1 Oral Roberts
F8 Valparaiso
F13 at Southern Utah
F15 at Chicago State
F20 IUPUI
F22 Oakland
F27 at Oral Roberts
M1 at UMKC

Atlantic Sun

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Lamont McIntosh, Georgia State	6-3	170	Jr.
G	Poonie Richardson, Jacksonville St.	6-0	180	Sr.
G	Kevin Sheppard, Jacksonville	6-0	190	Sr.
F	Scott Emerson, Mercer	6-9	235	Jr.
C	Adam Sonn, Belmont	6-8	230	Sr.

Player of the Year
Scott Emerson, Mercer

Newcomer of the Year
Trello Galloway, F, Georgia State

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Ray Abellard, UCF
Best playmaker: Kevin Sheppard, Jacksonville
Best dunker: Calvin Warner, Jacksonville
Best NBA prospect: Scott Emerson, Mercer
Most likely to blossom: Nate Williams, Georgia State
Best rebounder: Justin Howard, Mercer
Best defender: Alexis McMillan, Stetson
Best game coach: Jimmy Tillette, Samford
Most versatile: Lamont McIntosh, Georgia State
Will take a charge: Brooks Lee, Campbell

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Georgia State^	14	6	20	11
Troy State	14	6	18	10
Florida Atlantic*	13	7	19	12
Jacksonville	12	8	18	12
UCF	12	8	17	12
Samford	12	8	15	14
Jacksonville State	8	12	13	16
Belmont	8	12	11	17
Stetson	7	13	10	16
Campbell	6	14	8	19
Mercer	4	16	6	23

*Lost to Alabama in NCAA South first round.
^Lost to Tennessee Tech in NIT opening round.

NORTH

1. Georgia State, National Rank: 101
Outlook: What could have more of an impact than losing A-Sun Player of the Year Thomas Terrell and his 20.5 points and 7.3 rebounds a game? How about losing in the A-Sun tournament? The tournament returns to Georgia State this year, and so should the league trophy. Lamont McIntosh is the best guard in a guard-heavy league, and Nate Williams should dominate in the paint. McIntosh and Leroy Davis are deadly from 3-point range, and Darryl Cooper likely will be, too, with more chances this year. F Trello Galloway, who played at Tulane in 1999-2000, headlines a solid JC recruiting class. Most people know the Panthers because of their scoring power, but the team also ranked second in the league in free-throw percentage (71.8) and field-goal percentage defense (41.8).
Key player: Lamont McIntosh, G, 6-3/Jr. (12.2 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 4.1 apg).
Coach: Charles "Lefty" Driesell (99-53, 5 years; 782-388 overall, 40 years; 16-14 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Atlanta. **Home court:** GSU Sports Arena (5,500). **Website:** www.georgiastate.com

2. Samford, National Rank: 176
Outlook: So what if Samford lost its only player who averaged more than 10 points a game last season (Chris Weaver)? The Bulldogs have everything else going for them in their last season before joining the Ohio Valley Conference. They have size in the form of 6-10 C Phillip Ramelli, who can score on his own (46.3 percent on 3s) or put back rebounds. They have good guard play with Cornell Felton, arguably the most improved player in the A-Sun last year. They have a 3-point shooter in Jon Mills (39.7 percent). They have a system, the Princeton offense, that sets up easy buckets and dictates tempo. They also have a potential impact transfer in F Josh Hare, a 6-6, 220-pound sophomore from Appalachian State.
Key player: Phillip Ramelli, C, 6-10/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 56.4 FG%.
Coach: Jimmy Tillette (89-58, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2000.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Birmingham, Ala. **Home court:** Seibert Hall (4,000). **Website:** www.samfordsports.com

3. Jacksonville St., National Rank: 224
Outlook: The Gamecocks return all five starters and their top seven scorers from last year. They played well down the stretch last season and have plenty of players who can score. But with F Omar Barlett as the only effective player taller than 6-4, the Gamecocks don't have enough down low to consistently win, even with a stellar guard such as Poonie Richardson. Less-than-stellar free-throw shooting (68.1 percent), 3-point shooting (33.5 percent) and ballhanding (0.8-1 assist-to-turnover ratio) will again hurt. This is JSU's last year in the league (it is moving to the Ohio Valley in 2003-04), which won't earn it brownie points from league officials.
Key player: Poonie Richardson, G, 6-0/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.7 apg).
Coach: Mike LaPlante (22-35, 2 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Jacksonville, Ala.
Home court: Pete Matthews Coliseum (5,500).
Website: www.jsugamecocksports.com

4. Belmont, National Rank: 255
Outlook: The Bruins' 3-point shooting (9.4 made per game) surprised teams early and helped Belmont get off to a 6-2 start in its first season in the A-Sun. League opponents soon figured out how to beat the Bruins—play better defense and push the tempo. Belmont will need to shoot better or get faster to improve. It also must find a replacement for Wes Burtner, who averaged 17.7 points last year. Adam Sonn will be one of the best big men in a league lacking size, but Belmont's ability to match up with some of the A-Sun's stronger guard-oriented teams will determine the team's fate.
Key player: Adam Sonn, C, 6-8/Sr. (18.8 ppg, 10.3 rpg).
Coach: Rick Byrd (329-181, 16 years; 421-236 overall, 21 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Nashville. **Home court:** Municipal Auditorium (8,354). **Website:** www.belmont.edu/athletics

5. Campbell, National Rank: 269
Outlook: The Camels will find themselves at the bottom of the A-Sun unless they find three things: 1. Someone who can replace Adam Fellers' perimeter scoring. 2. Someone besides C Jonte' Edwards to rebound (the Camels were outrebounded by a league-worst five boards a game in 2001-02). 3. Someone—anyone—to play defense (Campbell allowed a league-worst 79.9 points a game and had the fewest steals in the league last season). Although the returning players play hard and tough, none can fix those problems. Making the conference tourney—only the top four teams in each division qualify—would be an accomplishment.
Key player: Jonte' Edwards, C, 6-7/Sr. (14.9 ppg, 5.8 rpg).
Coach: Billy Lee (211-264, 17 years; 332-352 overall, 24 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1992 (Big South).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Buies Creek, N.C. **Home court:** Carter Gym (945). **Website:** www.campbell.edu/athletics

6. Gardner-Webb, National Rank: 314
Outlook: The A-Sun newcomers might wish they had joined the A-Sun last season, since they lost their top three scorers from a 23-9 team. In all, the Bulldogs lost four starters who averaged a combined 40 points and 17.5 rebounds. F Otis Daniels is the only returning starter on a squad that has three players from Australia, including 6-11 Tim Behrendorff and 6-9 Simon Conn.
Key player: Otis Daniels, F, 6-6/So. (10.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg).
Coach: Rick Scruggs (126-75, 8 years; 304-189 overall, 17 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Boiling Springs, N.C. **Home court:** Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center (5,500).
Website: www.gwusports.com

SOUTH

1. Jacksonville, National Rank: 122
Outlook: Jacksonville lost six of its final nine games last year, but that was more because of a lack of chemistry than a lack of talent. The Dolphins match up with any team in the league because they have one of the best playmakers in Kevin Sheppard, a solid 3-point threat in James Daniels, one of the best defenders in C Ryan Lewis and one of the best post players in Calvin Warner. Jacksonville needs one more inside scorer—Antwan Robertson is a solid defender and passer but not a scorer—to be a title contender. That person could be Lewis, who started his collegiate career at Georgia. The Dolphins will have at least one highlight this year—coach Hugh Durham is nine wins away from 600.
Key player: Kevin Sheppard, G, 6-0/Sr. (13.5 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 4.1 apg).
Coach: Hugh Durham (64-75, 5 years; 591-386 overall, 34 years; 8-8 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1986 (Sun Belt).
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Jacksonville, Fla. **Home court:** Swisher Gym (1,500). **Website:** www.judolphins.com

2. Mercer, National Rank: 160
Outlook: There is much to like about this team. F Scott Emerson, who missed all but seven games last season because of an ankle injury, is back and at full strength. F Wesley Duke was primed for a breakout season before blowing out his knee last season. He'll be back, too. G/F Aleem Muhammed is the league's top returning scorer. This team has

10 players who are juniors or seniors. And Mark Slonaker is one of the most underrated coaches in the league. What's not to like? The Bears have had only one winning conference record the past nine years, and Porter Gym is not much of a court. The first problem should change this year, and the second will change in 2003-04 with a new on-campus facility.
Key player: Scott Emerson, F, 6-9/Jr. (15.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg in seven games).
Coach: Mark Slonaker (44-98, 5 years).
Last league title: 1985.
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: Macon, Ga. **Home courts:** Porter Gym (500), Macon Coliseum (8,500).
Website: www.mercer.edu/athletics

3. Troy State, National Rank: 213

Outlook: Word around campus is that the Trojans' junior college class, which usually is strong, won't compensate for the loss of Lamayn Wilson and Robert Rushing. Questions about recruits are nothing new at Troy State, but the Trojans usually emerge as one of the top teams in the league. Gs Lacedrick Pettway and Ben Fletcher will provide solid minutes and leadership, and of the five JC transfers (including Willie Bynum, who was injured last year), a few should step up. The team will still be athletic and able to score and will still give other team problems. Troy State has won at least a share of the A-Sun regular-season title two of the past three years.
Key player: Lacedrick Pettway, G, 6-6/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 5.1 rpg).
Coach: Don Maestri (331-235, 20 years).
Last league title: 2002 (tied).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Troy, Ala. **Home court:** Trojan Arena (4,500).
Website: www.troyst.edu/athletics

4. Florida Atlantic, National Rank: 223

Outlook: Last season's league tourney champs failed to take advantage of the momentum in the offseason. Coach Sidney Green, embroiled in a contract dispute, didn't sign any recruits during the summer. The Owls don't have anyone to replace Raheim Brown, who averaged 16.4 points and 8.5 rebounds while leading them to the NCAA Tournament. Without Brown, FAU is an average team. It can be slowed by shutting down Gs Earnest Crumbley and Jeff Cowans, and it can be attacked much easier because Brown no longer is around to own the middle. Nick Neumann (7-0, 245) isn't the answer.
Key player: Earnest Crumbley, G, 5-10/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 3.9 apg).
Coach: Sidney Green (28-64, 3 years; 77-124 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Boca Raton, Fla. **Home court:** FAU Gym (5,000). **Website:** www.fausports.com

5. Stetson, National Rank: 262

Outlook: Top scorer Ravii Givens returns, but the Hatters would rather rely on the point guard to provide leadership and accurate passes than a slew of points and turnovers. Givens will need to distribute the ball to a smaller but more athletic and explosive lineup that includes Rice transfer F/G Kevin Craig and G E.J. Gordon, one of central Florida's top prep players last year. G/F Alexis McMillan led the A-Sun in steals last year, and Mark Stiles will be asked to provide quality minutes in the middle. This team will be much better later in the year—the Hatters start practice a week late because of NCAA sanctions.
Key player: Ravii Givens, G, 5-10/Sr. (13.0 ppg, 3.8 apg, 83.8 FT%).
Coach: Derek Waugh (23-24, 2 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: DeLand, Fla. **Home court:** Edmunds Center (5,000). **Website:** www.stetson.edu/offices/athletics

6. UCF, National Rank: 300

Outlook: With the loss of three starters—Paul Reed to graduation and brothers Joey and Stephen Graham to Oklahoma State—the Golden Knights have a decent base but no depth. G Ray Abellard could average 25 points a game, F Ed Dotson could go for 15 more and G Al Miller could get 10, but UCF will have a tough time getting 15 or 20 more points from the rest of the squad. On paper, this team could be among the top three in the division if it avoids academic or injury problems, but when was the last time that happened at UCF? And, as always, there's pressure on coach Kirk Speraw, especially since new A.D. Steve Orsini believes a solid basketball program is desperately needed.
Key player: Ray Abellard, G, 5-10/Sr. (13.0 ppg, 2.9 apg, 46.2 3-point FG%).
Coach: Kirk Speraw (125-137, 10 years; 207-158 overall, 13 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Orlando. **Home court:** UCF Arena (5,100).
Website: www.ucfathletics.com

Atlantic Sun Schedules

Belmont
N17-26 Guardians Cl.
N23 at Georgia
D2 Navy
D11 at Air Force
D14 Loyola (Ill.)
D16 at Austin Peay
D18 at Purdue
D20 at Valparaiso
S28 East Tenn. State
J4 at Samford
J9 at Gardner-Webb
J11 at Campbell
J14 Fisk
J18 Jacksonville St.
J20 Georgia State
J23 Troy State
J25 at Mercer
J30 at Central Florida
F1 at Florida Atlantic
F6 Jacksonville
F8 Stetson
F13 at Georgia State
F15 at Jacksonville St.
F20 Campbell
F22 Gardner-Webb
M1 Samford

Campbell
N23 Francis Marion
N26 at Old Dominion
N30 Coastal Carolina
D11 at UNC Wilmington
D17 High Point
D21 at East Carolina
D28 at High Point
D30 William & Mary
J4 at Jacksonville St.
J6 at Georgia State
J9 Samford
J11 Belmont
J16 at Lipscomb
J18 Gardner-Webb
J23 at Jacksonville
J25 at Stetson
J30 Mercer
F1 Troy State
F6 at Florida Atlantic
F8 Central Florida
F13 Lipscomb
F15 at Gardner-Webb
F20 at Belmont
F22 at Samford
F27 Georgia State
M1 Jacksonville St.

Central Florida
N22 at Navy
N25 Niagara
N29-D1 Tulane Tour.
D7 Florida A&M
D12 Charleston
D15 Tennessee-Martin
D19 at Chicago State
D21 Gulf Coast
D27 Miami (Fla.)
D30 The Citadel
J6 at Kansas State
J11 at Troy State
J13 at Mercer
J18 Stetson
J20 Jacksonville
J23 at Jacksonville St.
J25 at Georgia State
J30 Belmont
F1 Samford
F6 Gardner-Webb
F8 at Campbell
F13 at Jacksonville
F15 at Stetson
F20 Troy State
F22 Mercer
M1 at Florida Atlantic

Florida Atlantic
N22 Drake
N24 at Iowa
N27 Nova SE
D3 Miami (Fla.)
D20 at Liberty
D28 at San Diego St.
D30 at UC Irvine
J4 at Central Florida
J9 at Troy State
J11 at Mercer
J18 Jacksonville
J20 Stetson
J23 at Georgia State
J25 at Jacksonville St.
J30 Samford
F1 Belmont
F6 Campbell
F8 at Gardner-Webb
F13 at Stetson
F15 at Jacksonville
F20 Mercer
F22 Troy State
M1 Central Florida

Gardner-Webb
N22 at Tennessee
N25 St. Mary's (Md.)
N27 Winthrop
D1 at Georgia Tech
D4 Appalachian St.
D7 at Colorado State
D14 at Clemson
D19 at Virginia
D21 at E. Michigan
D28 SMU*
D29 West Virginia*
J4 at Georgia State
J6 at Jacksonville St.
J9 Belmont
J11 Samford
J15 at Appalachian St.
J18 at Campbell
J23 at Stetson
J25 at Jacksonville
J30 at Troy State
F1 Mercer
F6 at Central Florida
F8 Florida Atlantic
F12 at Winthrop
F15 Campbell
F20 at Samford
F22 at Belmont
F27 Jacksonville St.
M1 Georgia State
*at Las Vegas

Georgia State
N23 No. Carolina A&T
N26 at Auburn
D3 Furman
D14 South Alabama
D16 Tennessee State
D18 at Mississippi St.
D21 at Oklahoma
D28 at Charleston So.
J2 at Furman
J4 Gardner-Webb
J6 Campbell
J11 at Jacksonville St.
J18 at Samford
J20 at Belmont
J23 Florida Atlantic
J25 Central Florida
J30 at Stetson
F1 Jacksonville
F6 at Troy State
F8 at Mercer
F13 Belmont
F15 Samford
F22 Jacksonville St.
F27 at Campbell
M1 at Gardner-Webb

Jacksonville
N23 St. Leo
N24-25 Thompson Chal.
N30 at Mississippi St.
D2 at New Orleans
D6-7 Hawkeye Chal.
D14 South Carolina St.
D18 at Illinois State
D30 UNC Wilmington
J4 Troy State
J6 Mercer
J11 at Stetson
J18 at Florida Atlantic
J20 at Central Florida
J23 Campbell
J25 Gardner-Webb
J30 Jacksonville St.
F1 at Georgia State
F6 at Belmont
F8 at Samford
F13 Central Florida
F15 Florida Atlantic
F22 Stetson
F27 at Mercer
M1 at Troy State

Jacksonville St.
N30 Alcorn State
N21-24 Top of World Cl.
D14 at Alcorn State
D28 at Michigan State
D30 at Oakland
J4 Campbell
J6 Gardner-Webb
J11 Georgia State
J18 at Belmont
J20 at Samford
J23 Central Florida
J25 Florida Atlantic
J28 at Savannah St.
J30 at Jacksonville
F1 Stetson
F3 Savannah State
F6 at Mercer
F8 at Troy State
F10 at Lipscomb
F13 Samford
F15 Belmont
F20 Lipscomb
F22 at Georgia State
F27 at Gardner-Webb
M1 at Campbell

Mercer
N22 at Elon
N24 at UNC Asheville
N27 at Florida State
N29 at Iowa State
D2 Reinhardt
D7 Georgia Southern
D10 at Morris Brown
D19 at Harvard
J2 at Savannah St.
J4 at Stetson
J6 at Jacksonville
J11 Florida Atlantic
F13 Central Florida
J18 at Troy State
J23 at Samford
J25 Belmont
J30 at Campbell
F1 at Gardner-Webb
F6 Jacksonville St.
F8 Georgia State
F13 Morris Brown
F15 Troy State
F17 Savannah State
F20 at Florida Atlantic
F22 at Central Florida
F27 Jacksonville
M1 Stetson

Samford
N22 Chattanooga
N25 Arkansas State
N27 North Georgia
D2 at Arkansas State
D6-7 Pizza Hut Classic
D14 at Valparaiso
D16 at Illinois-Chicago
D21 at Chattanooga
D28 at South Alabama
D31 at Mississippi
J4 Belmont
J9 at Campbell
J11 at Gardner-Webb
J18 Georgia State
J20 Jacksonville St.
J23 Mercer
J25 at Troy State
J30 at Florida Atlantic
F1 at Central Florida
F6 Stetson
F8 Jacksonville
F13 at Jacksonville St.
F15 at Georgia State
F20 Gardner-Webb
F22 Campbell
M1 at Belmont

Stetson
N22 Rollins
N24 at Colorado
N26 at Air Force
N30 Charleston So.
D2 at Birm. Southern
D15 Coll. of Charleston
D18 at Florida State
D28-29 Poinsettia Cla.
J4 Mercer
J6 Troy State
J11 Jacksonville
J13 Lipscomb
J18 at Central Florida
J20 at Florida Atlantic
J23 Gardner-Webb
J25 Campbell
J30 Georgia State
F1 at Jacksonville St.
F6 at Samford
F8 at Belmont
F13 Florida Atlantic
F15 Central Florida
F17 at Lipscomb
F22 at Jacksonville
F27 at Troy State
M1 at Mercer

Troy State
N25 at SE Louisiana
N27 at Southern Miss
N30 Lipscomb
D3 at Arkansas
D7 at Alabama State
D12 at Lipscomb
D17 at Georgia Tech
D20-22 San Juan S.O.
D30 Alabama State
J4 at Jacksonville
J6 at Stetson
J9 Florida Atlantic
J11 Central Florida
J18 Mercer
J23 at Belmont
J25 Samford
J30 at Gardner-Webb
F1 at Campbell
F6 Georgia State
F8 Jacksonville St.
F15 at Mercer
F20 at Central Florida
F22 at Florida Atlantic
F27 Stetson
M1 Jacksonville

Big Sky

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jason Erickson, Montana St.	6-3	185	Jr.
G	Jermaine Boyette, Weber St.	6-2	190	Sr.
G	Chris Hester, E. Washington	6-3	180	Sr.
F	Ryan McDade, N. Arizona	6-7	235	Sr.
F	Jeremy Brown, Idaho State	6-5	210	Sr.

Player of the Year

Chris Hester, Eastern Washington

Newcomer of the Year

Slobodan Ocokoljic, PF, Weber State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: David Bell, Montana
Best playmaker: Brad Barton, Weber State
Best dunker: Nic Sparrow, Weber State
Best NBA prospect: Jermaine Boyette, Weber State
Most likely to blossom: Darren Cooper, E. Washington
Best rebounder: Ryan McDade, Northern Arizona
Best defender: Alvin Snow, Eastern Washington
Best game coach: Ray Giacoletti, E. Washington
Most versatile: Chris Hester, E. Washington
Will take a charge: Jeb Ivey, Portland State

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Montana State^	12	2	20	10
Eastern Washington	10	4	17	13
Weber State	8	6	18	11
Montana*	7	7	16	15
Northern Arizona	7	7	14	14
Portland State	6	8	12	16
Idaho State	3	11	10	17
Sacramento State	3	11	9	19

*Lost to Oregon in NCAA Midwest first round.
^Lost to Richmond in NIT first round.

1. Eastern Washington, National Rank: 103

Outlook: The Eagles lost a few critical components, but EWU returns three of the conference's most versatile players: Gs Alvin Snow and Chris Hester and F Marc Axton. Two things to watch will be the development of sophomore PG Darren Cooper and whether redshirt junior Brendon Merritt can provide another scoring option. The Eagles also need to find a suitable replacement for C Jason Humbert, whose presence in the post will be missed.
Key player: Chris Hester, G, 6-3/Sr. (13.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 57.6 FG%).
Coach: Ray Giacoletti (34-24, 2 years; 82-57 overall, 5 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Cheney, Wash. **Home court:** Reese Court (6,000). **Website:** www.ewu.edu/athletics

2. Weber State, National Rank: 112

Outlook: Once again, the Wildcats have some of the league's top talent. Most everyone is back, including all-conference G Jermaine Boyette and G John Hamilton, one of the conference's top shooters. Ohio State transfer PF Slobodan Ocokoljic will provide help in the middle, along with senior big men Stephan Bachmann, Patrick Danley and Talmadge Eyre. Athletic swingman Nic Sparrow will find his way into the lineup. Coach Joe Cravens has been waiting for this group to mature; now he must keep it focused throughout the season.
Key player: Jermaine Boyette, G, 6-2/Sr. (17.1 ppg, 45.6 FG%).
Coach: Joe Cravens (51-35, 3 years; 106-87 overall, 7 years).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Ogden, Utah. **Home court:** Dee Events Center (12,000). **Website:** www.weber.edu/athletics

3. Montana State, National Rank: 120

Outlook: It's hard not to like the defending regular-season champs, especially when they return G Jason Erickson and hard-nosed F Casey Reynolds. Several key contributors are gone, but the Bobcats will vie for a title. Erickson is a slick offensive player who can take over games with outside shooting and smart playmaking. Conway is a remarkable outside shooter, and Reynolds is an excellent rebounder. Junior Bo Segeberg (back) is expected to return and provide a boost at center.
Coach: Mick Durham (192-155, 12 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Key player: Jason Erickson, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.5 ppg, 46.0 FG%, 85.3 FT%, 43.4 3PT%).
Last league title: 2002.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Bozeman, Mont. **Home court:** Worthington Arena (7,250) **Website:** www.msubobcats.com

4. Idaho State, National Rank: 148

Outlook: The Bengals will play a fast, wide-open style with SF Jeremy Brown leading the way. Fellow seniors Ray Munyagi, Alvin Brooks and Danny Boticki will help create a high-scoring lineup. Senior Rashad Kirkland, who redshirted last season, also will contribute. The Bengals hope Jesse Smith, a 6-9 redshirt freshman, eventually will fill C J.T. Nelson's shoes in the middle. Junior college transfer Marquis Poole will get the chance to earn the starting point guard spot. Scott Henry, a 6-7 forward who averaged 19.5 points in junior college, also will play.
Key player: Jeremy Brown, G-F, 6-5/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 40.1 FG%, 36.0 3PT%.)
Coach: Doug Oliver (38-70, 4 years).
Last league title: 1994 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Pocatello, Idaho. **Home court:** Reed Gym (8,000).
Website: www.isubengals.com

5. Montana, National Rank: 155

Outlook: Montana lost several key players, but new coach Pat Kennedy should be able to put together a competitive team around all-conference G David Bell. Bell can work well in an uptempo style, but only with the right support. To become contenders, PG Sam Riddle and Fs Brent Cummings, Marcus Rosser and Victor Venters must step up.
Coach: Pat Kennedy (1st year; 393-276 overall, 22 years; 6-8 NCAA Tournament).
Key player: David Bell, G, 6-1/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 39.2 3PT%).
Last league title: 2000.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Missoula, Mont. **Home court:** Adams Center (7,500). **Website:** www.montanagrizzlies.com

6. Portland State, National Rank: 232

Outlook: The Vikings have an excellent chance to become the conference's surprise team. However, with first-year coach Heath Schroyer trying to establish a new system, PSU could be a year away from the top of the league. The Vikings have talent with Gs Jeb Ivey and Troy DeVries and Fs Seamus Boxley and Seth Scott, a 6-10 junior college transfer. But there are some holes to fill after the loss of all-Big Sky F Anthony Lackey and the departures of underclassmen Billy Feeney and Aaron Fitzgerald.
Key player: Jeb Ivey, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 3.3 apg, 45.7 FG%, 41.5 3PT%, 98.0 FT%).
Coach: Heath Schroyer (1st year).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Portland, Ore. **Home court:** Stott Center (1,775). **Website:** www.goviks.com

7. Northern Arizona, National Rank: 253

Outlook: Senior F Ryan McDade is among the conference's best players and is a leader and tenacious rebounder. The other returning starter is SF Kodiak Yazzie, a dead-eye shooter from long distance. When he heats up, Yazzie can keep opposing defenses honest, but when he's having an off night, opponents can double up on McDade. Senior Chris Ferguson will run the point with sophomore Kyle Feuerbach backing him up.
Key player: Ryan McDade, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 49.3 FG%).
Coach: Mike Adras (49-39, 3 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Flagstaff, Ariz. **Home court:** Walkup Skydome (7,000). **Website:** www.nauathletics.com

8. Sacramento St., National Rank: 261

Outlook: The Hornets still are a long way from conference contender, but they are improving. This year's team is loaded with seniors. Joel Jones, Joe Dawson, Derek Lambeth and Jimmy White should step forward as leaders. Jones is one of the league's most versatile players, and Dawson is a quality point guard. That core, plus freshman G DeShawn Freeman and JC transfer F Emir Medunjanin, should play into coach Jerome Jenkins' open style.
Key player: Joel Jones, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (12 ppg, 46.0 FG%).
Coach: Jerome Jenkins (14-41, 2 years)
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Sacramento, Calif. **Home court:** Hornet Gym (1,400). **Website:** www.hornetsports.com

Big Sky Schedules

East. Washington

N15-16 NABC Classic
N23 at San Diego State
N26 St. Mary's
N30 at Denver
D3 Concordia
D7 Idaho
D15 Great Falls
D18 at Boise State
D22 at Gonzaga
D27-28 Oneida Classic
D31 at Nebraska
J4 Portland
J9 at Montana
J11 at Montana State
J16 Northern Arizona
J18 Sacramento State
J25 Portland State
J30 at Idaho State
F1 at Weber State
F6 Montana State
F6 Montana
F13 at Sacramento St.
F15 at Northern Arizona
F22 at Portland State
F27 Weber State
M1 Idaho State

Idaho State

N22-23 Blue and Gold Cl.
N25 at Boise State
N29-30 McCaffrey Cl.
D4 Menlo
D14 at Cal St. Fullerton
D17 Tennessee Tech
D21 Eastern Oregon
D27-28 Gossner Food Cl.
J11 at BYU
J14 Cal State Fullerton
J16 Montana
J18 Montana State
J23 at Sacramento St.
J25 at Northern Arizona
J30 Eastern Washington
F1 Portland State
F5 Weber State
F8 at Weber State
F13 at Montana State
F15 at Montana
F20 Northern Arizona
F22 Sacramento State
F27 at Portland State
M1 at East. Washington

Montana

N22 Northern Iowa
N26 Denver
N27-30 Gr. Alaska Shoot.
D5 Gonzaga
D7 Montana Tech
D10 at Washington State

(Big Sky continued)

D12 Idaho
D16-17 Stanford Invit.
D21 at Loy. Marymount
D30 Southern Utah
J2 at Denver
J4 at Purdue
J9 Eastern Washington
J11 Portland State
J16 at Idaho State
J25 at Weber State
J30 Northern Arizona
F1 Sacramento State
F6 at Portland State
F8 at East. Washington
F13 Weber State
F15 Idaho State
F22 Montanta State
F27 at Sacramento St.
M1 at Northern Arizona

Montana State

N23 at Washington
N27 at Santa Clara
D1 Winthrop
D3 Great Falls
D6-7 Hawkeye Challenge
D10 Dickinson State
D14 at Baylor
D21 at Idaho
D29-30 Big R Classic
J4 Wyoming*
J6 Portland
J9 Portland State
J11 Eastern Washington
J16 at Weber State
J18 at Idaho State
J25 Montana
J30 Sacramento State
F1 Northern Arizona
F6 at East. Washington
F8 at Portland State
F13 Idaho State
F15 Weber State
F22 at Montana
F26 at Northern Arizona
M1 at Sacramento St.
*at Billings, Mont.

Northern Arizona

N22-23 Mohegan Sun Cl.
N27 at Arizona
D4 Northeastern
D14 at Southern Utah
D17 at UCLA
D21 Tennesee Martin
D28 at Portland
J2 Marist
J4 Southern Utah
J7 at New Mexico
J11 Sacramento
J18 at Portland State
J23 Weber State
J25 Idaho State
J30 at Montana
F1 at Montana State
F8 at Sacramento St.
F13 Portland State
F15 Eastern Washington
F20 at Idaho State
F22 at Weber State
F27 Montana State
M1 Montana

Portland State

N22 Cal St. Northridge
N24 at UNLV
N30 at Portland
D3 Cascade
D7 at St. Mary's
D14 Linfield
D17 at Oregon State
D21 at Boise State
D23 Portland
D28-29 Lobo Invitational
J2 Gonzaga
J7 Sacramento State
J9 at Montana State
J11 at Montana
J15 Oregon
J18 Northern Arizona
J25 at East.Washington
J30 at Weber State
F1 at Idaho State
F6 Montana
F8 Montana State
F13 at Northern Arizona
F15 at Sacrameto State
F22 Eastern Washington
F27 Idaho State
M1 Weber State

Sacramento State

N14-16 BCA Invitational
N25 at Loy. Marymount
N30 at Southern Utah
D2 Dominican
D4 San Francisco
D7 at Cal Poly
D10 San Jose State
D14 Oregon State
D21 Cal State Fullerton
D27 at Idaho
D30 at Fresno State
J4 at Lipscomb
J7 at Portland State
J11 at Northern Ariz.
J14 at Texas A&M-C.C.
J18 at East. Washington
J23 Idaho State
J25 Weber State
J30 at Montana State
F1 at Montana
F4 San Jose Christian
F8 Northern Arizona
F13 Eastern Washington
F15 Portland State
F20 at Weber State
F22 at Idaho State
F27 Montana
M1 Montana State

Weber State

N21-24 Top of World Cl.
N22 Montana Tech
N30 Nevada
D6-7 Winthrop Shoot.
D14 Wis.-Green Bay
D17 at Portland
D21 at Utah State
D23 at Boise State
D29-30 Dr Pepper Cl.
J3 at Utah
J8 BYU
J16 Montana State
J18 Montana
J23 at Northern Arizona
J25 at Sacramento St.
J30 Portland State
F1 Eastern Washington
F5 at Idaho State
F8 Idaho State
F13 at Montana
F15 at Montana State
F20 Sacramento State
F22 Northern Arizona
F27 at East. Washington
M1 at Portland State

Rank 25

Southland

By Paul Letlow, The News-Star in Monroe, La.

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jason Coleman, McNeese St.	6-4	180	Sr.
G	Amir Abdur-Rahim, SE Louisiana	6-3	193	Sr.
F	Damond Williams, McNeese St.	6-6	190	Sr.
F	Damany Hendrix, Lamar	6-6	205	Sr.
F	Donald Cole, Sam Houston St.	6-8	222	Sr.

Player of the Year

Donald Cole, Sam Houston State

Newcomer of the Year

Leroy Hurd, F, Texas-San Antonio

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jason Coleman, McNeese State
Best playmaker: Robert Shannon, Sam Houston State
Best dunker: Reggie Griffin, Louisiana-Monroe
Best NBA prospect: Donald Cole, Sam Houston State
Most likely to blossom: Jermaine Spencer, Northwestern St.
Best rebounder: Donald Cole, Sam Houston State
Best defender: David Sykes, Southwest Texas
Best game coach: Tic Price, McNeese State
Most versatile: Damond Williams, McNeese State
Will take a charge: Jon Havens, Texas-San Antonio

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
McNeese State*	17	3	21	8
La.-Monroe	15	5	20	12
Texas-San Antonio	13	7	19	10
Lamar	11	9	15	14
Stephen F. Austin	10	10	13	15
SW Texas State	10	10	12	16
Texas-Arlington	9	10	12	14
Sam Houston State	9	11	14	14
Northwestern State	8	11	12	18
SE Louisiana	6	14	7	20
Nicholls State	1	19	2	25

*Lost to Mississippi State in NCAA Midwest first round.

1. McNeese State, National Rank: 138

Outlook: Tic Price led the Cowboys to the regular-season title, the Southland tournament championship and the NCAA Tournament in his first year. Any repeat must come with a new cast, but McNeese has been one of the league's deepest teams the past few years and has the talent to contend again. G Jason Coleman is a fearless shooter. Senior F Damond Williams can score, rebound and defend. After losing muscular PF Fred Gentry and 7-1 C Raynell Brewer, McNeese added a pair of junior college bangers who is expected to restock the inside game in 6-10, 240-pound Tom Miley and 6-9, 215-pound Monte Farmer. PG Eldridge Lewis will take the reins of a team that has the potential to make the NCAA Tournament.
Key player: Jason Coleman, G, 6-4/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 35 3PT%).
Coach: Tic Price (21-9, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA Tournament: 2001.
Site: Lake Charles, La. **Home court:** Burton Coliseum (8,000). **Website:** www.mcneese.edu

2. Sam Houston St., National Rank: 211

Outlook: After a disappointing season in which the Bearkats fell short of a berth in the SLC tournament, they are in position to rebound in a hurry with four returning starters and an experienced bench. F Donald Cole was SLC Newcomer of the Year last season after averaging 16.4 points and 10.3 rebounds. He could be SLC Player of the Year this season. The lineup features the league's most productive playmaker in senior Robert Shannon. Jay Oliphant, a 6-5 post, and senior PG Eddy Barlow fortify a seasoned bench. Rodrick Winters, a 6-5 forward who has a 40-inch vertical jump, has the potential to be a highlight-reel player.
Key player: Donald Cole, F, 6-8/Sr. (16.4 ppg, 10.3 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 48.1 FG%, 77.2 FT%).
Coach: Bob Marlin (62-50, 4 years).
Last league title: 2000.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Huntsville, Texas. **Home court:** Johnson Coliseum (6,100). **Website:** www.shsu.edu/~ath_www

3. Lamar, National Rank: 220

Outlook: Lamar makes the transition this season from one of the league's youngest teams to one of the most seasoned. The Cardinals bring back their top three scorers and look capable of battling for Southland supremacy. F Damany Hendrix led his team in scoring 18 times and scored 20 or more points 14 times. Hendrix, the top returning scorer in the league, made 68 of 187 3-pointers. G Ron Austin made sure Hendrix had help by averaging 14.5 points a game and hitting game-winning shots in back-to-back wins over Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin. The biggest loss was F Lewis Arline because of his rebounding. But coach Mike Deane ventured north to Canada to plug the hole by signing 6-9 PF Jason Grant.
Key player: Damany Hendrix, F, 6-6/Sr. (17.7 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 41.1 FG%, 36.4 3PT%, 84.3 FT%).
Coach: Mike Deane (39-48, 3 years; 329-205, 17 years overall; 2-4 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1984.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Beaumont, Texas. **Home court:** Montagne Center (10,080). **Website:** www.athletics.lamar.edu

4. Texas-San Antonio, National Rank: 273

Outlook: The Roadrunners finished near the top of the SLC the past five years, but the departure of stars Devin Brown and McEverett Powers and steady F Reggie Minnieweather leaves Texas-sized craters in the lineup. So the team must look to potential new stars such as 6-8 F Leroy Hurd, a transfer from Miami (Fla.). Justin Harbert, a stocky 6-1 combo guard who transferred from Colorado, is another needed reinforcement. New Gs Sammy Cole and Robert Ivy were teammates at Meridian (Miss.) JC, where they combined to average 34 points a game. Despite the losses, the Roadrunners should regroup quickly.
Key player: Leroy Hurd, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer, Miami, Fla.).
Coach: Tim Carter (105-91, 7 years; 117-107 overall, 8 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: San Antonio. **Home court:** Convocation Center (5,100). **Website:** www.goutsa.com

5. Louisiana-Monroe, National Rank: 276

Outlook: Last season the Indians led the league in attendance, finished second in the SLC and reached the title game of the conference tournament. Now it's time to start over. ULM lost five seniors, including F Brian Lubeck and 7-2 C Wojciech Myrda, who set the NCAA record for career blocks. The top returning

player is F Kirby Lemons, a hustling senior who lurks around the basket, rebounds with passion and feasts on putbacks. Gs Brandon Horn and Aaron Branch must show they can run the team from the point. Both are better than average perimeter threats. ULM will have a large front line with the additions of 6-10, 270-pound C Chavis "Tank" Thompson and 6-8 PF Wayne Bransom.
Key player: Kirby Lemons, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 50.3 FG%).
Coach: Mike Vining (370-248, 21 years; 0-7 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Monroe, La. **Home court:** Fant-Ewing Coliseum (8,000). **Website:** http://ulmathletics.ocsn.com

6. Stephen F. Austin, National Rank: 291

Outlook: Coach Danny Kaspar is starting to turn things around; last season, he led the Lumberjacks to the postseason for the first time since 1997. Four starters are back to keep the drive alive. Senior Percy Green was the top scorer as he split time between forward and center. F Steven Ozier, a former wide receiver in high school, was the SLC Freshman of the Year. Primarily a defensive specialist in his first season, Ozier must continue to improve his offensive game. Skip Jackson and Ben Hunt give the Lumberjacks a pair of perimeter threats. Jackson made 43 of 115 3-pointers, and Hunt hit 44 of 123. Freshman PG Marcus Clark could crack the starting lineup.
Key player: Percy Green, F, 6-7/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 50.3 FG%,).
Coach: Danny Kaspar (22-32, 2 years; 241-84, 11 years overall).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Nacogdoches, Texas. **Home court:** Johnson Coliseum (7,200). **Website:** www.sfajacks.com

7. Southeastern Louisiana, National Rank: 296

Outlook: Amir Abdur-Rahim, who transferred in from junior college last season and whose brother Shareef plays for the Atlanta Hawks, quickly proved to be the team's best player. A consistent scorer from the perimeter, Abdur-Rahim averaged 15.9 points a game. For the Lions to make a move, they must find additional offense and shore up their inside game. Dee Gadsen, a slashing guard who sat out last season because of academics, could provide help. Also expected back from injury is 7-0 C Stephen Ameh. JC transfer Terry West should help; he averaged 14.1 points and 11.4 rebounds and had two 20-plus rebound games last season.
Key player: Amir Abdur-Rahim, G, 6-3/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 36.7 3PT%).
Coach: Billy Kennedy (25-58, 3 years; 49-92 overall, 5 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Hammond, La. **Home court:** University Center (7,500). **Website:** www.lionsports.net

8. Northwestern St., National Rank: 306

Outlook: The Demons were dealt an unexpected blow when promising 6-11 C D'or Fischer, who contributed 4.4 blocks and 10 points a game, transferred to West Virginia. However, his departure should clear the way for Northwestern to employ the fast-breaking style coach Mike McConathy prefers. The team lost seven seniors, and the returning players are the bottom four point producers, so newcomers will lead a radical transition. Redshirt freshman C Tim Van will have help from bulky Fs Carl Jones (6-9, 270) and Byron Allen (6-7, 280). One of the most anticipated arrivals is true freshman Jermaine Spencer. He could split time at shooting guard with 6-3 freshman Jermaine Wallace.
Key player: Tim Van, C, 6-11/Fr.
Coach: Mike McConathy (49-44, 3 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Natchitoches, La. **Home court:** Prather Coliseum (4,300). **Website:** www.nsudemons.com

9. Texas-Arlington, National Rank: 311

Outlook: Rugged PF Mack Callier might be one of the SLC's most underrated players. He was first on the team in rebounds and third in scoring and assists last season and is the best of the team's returning players. Donny Beacham, Josh Daniel, Roy Obasohoan and Roy Johnson all started at least 10 games last season. Obasohoan was the SLC Freshman of the Year two years ago and could blossom. Beacham is a heady defender. Look for Grambling State transfer Keith Howell, who averaged 10.2 points in '00-01, to get plenty of time. The Mavs are counting on the return of 6-5 G Luka Jaukovic from a hand injury.
Key player: Mack Callier, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 53.0 FG%).
Coach: Eddie McCarter (119-155, 10 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Arlington, Texas. **Home court:** Texas Hall (4,200).
Website: www.utamavs.com

10. Southwest Texas State, National Rank: 313

Outlook: Coach Dennis Nutt has made a habit of surprising the competition. The Bobcats have relied on a formula of perimeter shooting and defense. The team set a Southwest Texas State record for steals with 254 last season and hurt opponents with 39.7 percent 3-point shooting. G David Sykes, who had a school-record 62 steals last season, is the top returning player. Three-point specialist Brady Richeson is one of two returning starters, along with solid inside presence Moses Aguko. The Bobcats won't improve without help from new players. G Roosevelt Brown, a 6-3 transfer from Texas who sat out last year, is expected to start, and 6-10 freshman Nick Goellner has a chance to play early.
Key player: David Sykes, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (5.4 rpg, 3.9 apg).
Coach: Dennis Nutt (25-31, 2 years).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: San Marcos, Texas. **Home court:** Strahan Coliseum (7,200). **Website:** www.swtbobcats.com

11. Nicholls State, National Rank: 315

Outlook: The good news for rookie coach and former LSU player Ricky Blanton is he inherits four starters. The bad news is those starters played for the league's worst team a year ago (2-25, 1-19 in Southland play). G Ronnie Price offers scoring hope, as does F Earnest Porter. F Kendrick Johnson and C Jonas Pierre are expected to make immediate contributions. Johnson led Marion (Ala.) Military Institute with 23.5 points and 15.6 rebounds a game and was named Alabama Junior College Athletic Association Player of the Year. Pierre, who is 6-11, has an 86-inch wingspan and a reputation as a shot-blocker.
Key player: Ronnie Price, G, 6-1/So. (11.3 ppg, 77.0 FT%).
Coach: Ricky Blanton (1st year).
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Thibodaux, La. **Home court:** Stopher Gym (3,500). **Website:** www.colonelsports.com

Southland Schedules

Lamar
N24 at Pacific
N30 Texas A&M-C.C.
D3 at Texas Southern
D7 at Rice
D14 Loyola (La.)
D18 at Wichita State
D21 Texas-Pan American
D28 at Sam Houston St.
J2 Nicholls State
J4 SE Louisiana
J9 at Texas-San Antonio
J11 at SW Texas
J16 at Stephen F. Austin
J18 at Texas-Arlington
J23 Northwestern State
J25 Louisiana-Monroe
J30 Sam Houston State
F1 McNeese State
F6 at Nicholls State
F8 at SE Louisiana
F13 Texas-San Antonio
F15 SW Texas State
F20 Stephen F. Austin
F22 Texas-Arlington
F27 at Northwestern St.
M1 at Louisiana-Monroe
M7 at McNeese State

Louisiana-Monroe
N26 Centenary
D2 Tougaloo
D7 at Centenary
D11 at Baylor
D14 at TCU
D17 at Mississippi
D21 at Texas A&M
D28 Stephen F. Austin
D30 at Nicholls State
J2 SW Texas State
J4 Texas-San Antonio
J11 at McNeese State
J16 Nicholls State
J18 SE Louisiana
J23 at Sam Houston St.
J25 at Lamar
J30 McNeese State
F1 Texas-Arlington
F6 at Southwest Texas
F8 at Texas-San Antonio
F15 at Northwestern St.
F20 at SE Louisiana
F22 Northwestern State
F27 Sam Houston State
M1 Lamar
M5 at Stephen F. Austin
M7 at Texas-Arlington

McNeese State
N25 at Mississippi State
N27 at Louisiana-Lafayette
D2 Loyola (La.)
D7 at LSU
D14 at Liberty
D19 at Texas
D18 SW Texas State
D30 Sam Houston State
J2 at Texas-Arlington
J4 at Stephen F. Austin
J9 Northwestern State
J11 Louisiana-Monroe
J16 at SW Texas State
J18 at Texas-San Antonio
J23 at Nicholls State
J30 at Louisiana-Monroe
F1 at Lamar
F8 Stephen F. Austin
F10 at Texas-Arlington
F13 at Northwestern St.
F20 Texas-San Antonio
F22 at SE Louisiana
F27 Nicholls State
M1 SE Louisiana
M5 at Sam Houston St.
M7 Lamar

Nicholls State
N22-24 Hisp. Coll. Fund
N29-D1 Tulane Tour.
D7 at Texas Tech
D14 at Southern
D17 at UAB
D19 at Birm. Southern
D21 at Mississippi
D28 Louisiana-Monroe
D30 SE Louisiana
J2 at Lamar
J4 at Sam Houston St.
J9 Stephen F. Austin
J11 Texas-Arlington
J16 at Louisiana-Monroe
J18 at Northwestern
J23 McNeese State
J25 at SE Louisiana
J30 SW Texas State
F1 Texas-San Antonio
F6 Lamar
F8 Sam Houston State
F13 at Stephen F. Austin
F15 at Texas-Arlington
F20 Northwestern
F27 at McNeese State
M5 at Southwest Texas
M7 at Texas-San Antonio

Northwestern St.
N25 at New Mexico
N27 at Baylor
N30 at Centenary
D7 at Wichita State
D8 at Oklahoma State
D30 at SE Louisiana
J2 Texas-San Antonio
J4 SW Texas State
J9 at McNeese State
J13 Centenary
J16 SE Louisiana
J18 Nicholls State
J23 at Lamar
J25 at Sam Houston St.
J30 Texas-Arlington
F1 Stephen F. Austin
F6 at Texas-San Antonio
F8 at SW Texas State
F13 McNeese State
F15 Louisiana-Monroe
F20 at Nicholls State
F22 at Louisiana-Monroe
F27 Lamar
M1 Sam Houston State
M5 at Texas-Arlington
M7 at Stephen F. Austin

Sam Houston State
N22 at Texas Christian
N26 Austin College
N29-30 McCaffrey Cl.
D18 at Arkansas
D21 Texas-Dallas
D28 Lamar
D30 at McNeese State
J2 SE Louisiana
J4 Nicholls State
J9 at SW Texas State
J11 at Texas-San Antonio
J16 at Texas-Arlington
J18 at Stephen F. Austin
J23 Louisiana-Monroe
J25 Northwestern State
J30 at Lamar
F1 Texas A&M-C.C.
F6 at SE Louisiana
f8 at Nicholls State
F13 SW Texas State
F15 Texas-San Antonio
F20 Texas-Arlington
F22 Stephen F. Austin

(Southland continued)

F27 at Louisiana-Monroe
M1 at Northwestern St.
M5 McNeese State

SE Louisiana

N22 at Vanderbilt
N25 Troy State
D2 at Auburn
D4 Belhaven
D7 at New Orleans
D14 at Pittsburgh
D18 Loyola (La.)
D28 at Nicholls State
D30 Northwestern State
J2 at Sam Houston St.
J4 at Lamar
J9 Texas-Arlington
J11 Stephen F. Austin
J16 at Northwestern St.
J18 at Louisiana-Monroe
J25 Nicholls State
J30 Texas-San Antonio
F1 Southwest Texas
F6 Sam Houston State
F8 Lamar
F13 at Texas-Arlington
F15 at Stephen F. Austin
F20 Louisiana-Monroe
F22 McNeese State
M1 at McNeese State
M5 at Texas-San Antonio
M7 at Southwest Texas

Stephen F. Austin

N23 at Texas
N26 LeTourneau
D3 Centenary
D7 at Texas Southern
D14 Oral Roberts
D16 Concordia
D19 Jackson State
D28 at Louisiana-Monroe
D30 at SW Texas State
J4 McNeese State
J9 at Nicholls State
J11 at SE Louisiana
J16 Lamar
J18 Sam Houston State
J23 at Texas-San Antonio
J25 Texas-Arlington
F1 at Northwestern St.
F6 at Texas-Arlington
F8 at McNeese State
F13 Nicholls State
F15 SE Louisiana
F20 at Lamar
F22 at Sam Houston St.
F27 Texas-San Antonio
M1 at SW Texas State
M5 Louisiana-Monroe
M7 Northeastern State

Texas-Arlington

N23 at Wichita State
N27 at Texas
N30 Texas Wesleyan
D3 Arkansas-Monticello
D7 at Houston
D23 at New Mexico St.
D28 at Texas-San Antonio
J2 McNeese State
J9 at SE Louisiana
J11 at Nicholls State
J16 Sam Houston State
J18 Lamar
J23 at SW Texas State
J25 at Stephen F. Austin
J30 at Northwestern St.
F1 at Louisiana-Monroe
F6 Stephen F. Austin
F10 at McNeese State
F13 at SE Louisiana
F15 Nicholls State
F20 at Sam Houston St.
F22 at Lamar
F27 at SW Texas State
M1 at Texas-San Antonio
M5 Northwestern State
M7 Louisiana-Monroe

Texas-San Antonio

N22-23 Blue and Gold Cl.
N26 UNC Wilmington
D3 at Nebraska
D15 at Texas A&M
D21 at UNC Wilmington
D28 at Texas-Arlington
J2 at Northwestern St.
J4 at Louisiana-Monroe
J9 Lamar
J11 Sam Houston State
J18 McNeese State
J22 Stephen F. Austin
J25 at SW Texas State
J30 at SE Louisiana
F1 at Nicholls State
F6 Northwestern State
F8 Louisiana-Monroe
F13 at Lamar
F15 at Sam Houston St.
F20 at McNeese State
F22 SW Texas State
F26 at Stephen F. Austin
M1 Texas-Arlington
M5 SE Louisiana
M7 Nicholls State

SW Texas State

N29 at Texas Southern
D4 at Baylor
D9 Houston
D14 Hardin Simmons
D17 New Orleans
D21 at Arkansas
D28 at McNeese State
D30 at Stephen F. Austin
J4 at Louisiana-Monroe
J9 Sam Houston State
J11 Lamar
J16 McNeese State
J23 at Texas-Arlington
J25 Texas-San Antonio
J30 at Nicholls State
F1 at SE Louisiana
F6 Louisiana-Monroe
F8 Northwestern St.
F13 at Sam Houston St.
F15 at Lamar
F22 at Texas-San Antonio
F27 Texas-Arlington
M1 Stephen F. Austin
M5 Nicholls State
M7 SE Louisiana

Rank 26

By Craig T. Greenlee, News & Record (Greensboro, N.C.)

MEAC

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Miles Davis, Delaware St.	5-5	145	Jr.
G	Moses Malone Jr., SC State	6-4	210	Sr.
G/F	Kyle Williams, Howard	6-6	215	Sr.
G/F	Devin Green, Hampton	6-7	200	So.
F	Andre Matthews, Delaware St.	6-5	210	Jr.

Player of the Year

Kyle Williams, Howard

Newcomer of the Year

Tyrone Green, G, North Carolina A&T

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Ron Williamson, Howard
Best playmaker: Miles Davis, Delaware State
Best dunker: Andre Matthews, Delaware State
Best NBA prospect: Kyle Williams, Howard
Most likely to blossom: Jimmy Boykin, Coppin State
Best rebounder: Isaac Jefferson, Hampton
Best defender: Demarcus Wilkins, Florida A&M
Best game coach: Greg Jackson, Delaware State
Most versatile: Kyle Williams, Howard
Will take a charge: Isaac Jefferson, Hampton

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Hampton*	17	1	26	7
Delaware State	12	6	16	13
South Carolina State	12	7	16	16
Howard	11	7	18	13
North Carolina A&T	10	7	11	16
Norfolk State	9	9	10	19
Florida A&M	9	9	9	19
Bethune Cookman	8	10	12	17
Md.-Eastern Shore	7	11	11	18
Coppin State	3	15	6	25
Morgan State	2	16	3	25

*Lost to Connecticut NCAA East first round.

1. Hampton, National Rank: 111

Outlook: Losing a coach (Steve Merfeld) and a league MVP (Tommy Adams) might spell disaster for most teams, but not Hampton. Despite the losses, the Pirates still are the team to beat. Don't look for many drastic changes under new coach Bobby Collins, who recruited many of the players on this team. The Pirates run when they want, press when they want and find ways to score regardless of what type of defense they face. Devin Green is an all-purpose star, and swingman Isaac Jefferson poses matchup problems. Hampton relishes the role of being the team everyone else in the league wants to beat. That's why the Pirates will be tough to handle as they go for a third straight NCAA Tournament appearance.
Key player: Devin Green, G/F, 6-7/So. (13.1 ppg, 4.6 rpg).
Coach: Bobby Collins (1st year).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Hampton, Va. **Home court:** Hampton Univ. Conv. Ctr. (7,200). **Website:** www.hamptonu.edu/athletics

2. Howard, National Rank: 175

Outlook: The MEAC's most improved team is ready to take its game even higher. The Bison have shooters: Kyle Williams, Ron Williamson and Jonathan Stokes. But that's just the beginning. Newcomers Mack Wilkinson, Quadir Habeeb and Louis Ford give the team an unprecedented quality of depth. The Bison can run with anyone and break down defenses in a half-court set. This team is hungry and eager to prove a point after losing to Hampton in the tournament final last spring. Howard has ample size, but equally important is the overall talent of this group, which has more than its share of multidimensional athletes. If any team can knock Hampton off its throne, this is the one.
Key player: Kyle Williams, F, 6-6/Sr. (18.7 ppg, 42.5 FG%).
Coach: Frankie Allen (28-31, 2 years; 199-232, 21 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Burr Gymnasium (2,700). **Website:** www.bisonmania.com

3. Delaware State, National Rank: 217

Outlook: The Hornets have a way of making opponents play their style. They do not dazzle with baseline-to-baseline pressure. Instead, they wear down opponents with a methodical halfcourt game. Miles Davis is arguably the league's craftiest point guard, and Andre Matthews rates among the league's premier small forwards. To take the next step in its quest for a crown, Delaware State must cultivate its inside/outside game to divert attention from Matthews. Carlos Hawkins will force defensive switches with his perimeter shooting, and the low-post game is due for a pick-me-up from a pair of Division I transfers: 6-11 Marcus Grant (La Salle) and Matthews' brother, 6-7 Aaron (Villanova). When the Hornets dictate a slow to mid-paced tempo—and that's most of the time—they're difficult to deal with.
Key player: Andre Matthews, F, 6-5/Jr. (14.2 ppg, 5.3 rpg).
Coach: Greg Jackson (29-28, 2 years; 195-105 overall, 11 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Dover, Del. **Home court:** Memorial Hall (3,000).
Website: www.dsc.edu/athletics

4. South Carolina St., National Rank: 242

Outlook: Look for a new breed of Bulldogs this season. Moses Malone Jr. will lead, and he will get lots of help from skilled transfers. Clemson transplants Dustin Braddick and Chuckie Gilmore will make waves, as will Thurman Zimmerman, who was South Carolina's top high school player two seasons ago. Even with this nearly brand new cast, expect S.C. State to pound the boards and run its halfcourt offense with poise and precision. The Bulldogs didn't always shoot well last season, which contributed to their downfall in the MEAC tournament semifinals. Braddock's younger brother, Dakin, is worth keeping an eye on. The 6-11 freshman is versatile enough to play every position except point guard.
Key player: Moses Malone, G, 6-4/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg).
Coach: Cy Alexander (257-191, 15 years; 0-4 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2001.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Orangeburg, S.C. **Home court:** Smith-Hammond Memorial Center (3,200).
Website: www.scsusports.com

5. Florida A&M, National Rank: 248

Outlook: The Rattlers might be the league's sleeper. They will be vastly improved with several transfers, including G Terrence Woods (Tennessee) and junior college PG Moses White, who played a season at Georgia. FAMU will use its quickness to force an uptempo game. The only question is whether it can handle teams that excel at playing at a slower pace. The Rattlers never have been beastly on the glass, and that must change. Jermaine Hill is a project in the middle, and he will need help from transfers O.J. Sumter and Michael Ayodele. How well this group fares will depend on each player's willingness to sacrifice personal stats for the good of the team.
Key player: Michael Griffith, G, 6-2/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg).
Coach: Mike Gillespie (9-19, 1 year; 35-47 overall, 3 years).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Tallahassee, Fla. **Home court:** Gaither Gym (3,365). **Website:** www.famu.edu

6. North Carolina A&T, National Rank: 257

Outlook: The Aggies are loaded, but they also are inexperienced, and that means growing pains. With a new class that features plenty of speed and quickness, A&T will use more traps and presses to try to score more fast-break points. Landon Beckwith is a gifted outside shooter who will benefit from the presence of PG Tyrone Green, who sat out last season. If 6-10 Abraham Traore continues to develop in the pivot, the Aggies could emerge as a surprise contender. Keep an eye on swingman Joe Holmes and G Michael Kirkpatrick, a pair of prized rookies who can run, score and defend. This bunch is capable of making a strong run in the season's final month.
Key player: Landon Beckwith, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 2.1 rpg).
Coach: Curtis Hunter (39-48, 3 years).
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Greensboro, N.C. **Home court:** Corbett Center (6,700). **Website:** www.ncat.edu/~athletic

7. Md.-Eastern Shore, National Rank: 264

Outlook: When Thomas Trotter Jr., the coach's son, is on his game, the Eagles are tough. But the flip side is that UMES is too predictable when Trotter must go solo. The Eagles must display more inside toughness to achieve some semblance of floor balance. That's why Trotter Sr. brought in junior college Fs Javes Wiggins and Terrence Stafford. If these two live up to the hype, the team will become more of a factor in the conference race. A productive low-post game would give Trotter Jr. more room to hurt defenses with his 3-point shooting. UMES needs more consistency and still is a player or two from becoming one the league's top-tier teams.
Key player: Thomas Trotter, G, 5-11/Jr. (16.7 ppg, 3.2 apg).
Coach: Thomas Trotter Sr. (23-34, 2 years).
Last league title: 1974.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Princess Anne, Md. **Home court:** Hytche Athletic Center (3,500). **Website:** www.umes.edu/athletics

8. Bethune-Cookman, National Rank: 268

Outlook: The Wildcats are pesky and that makes them dangerous. Richard Toussaint and Maurice Riddick are legitimate scoring threats. But on too many occasions, they got little or no offensive help from teammates. That's expected to change this season with the addition of junior college transfers Kendrick Frink and Bayete Gordon. The Wildcats are at their best when they play intense defense, but they lack a consistent inside game. Perhaps rookie Michael Williams II will help in that area.
Key player: Richard Toussaint, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (21.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 46.2 FG%).
Coach: Clifford Reed Jr. (6-4, 1 year).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Daytona Beach, Fla. **Home court:** Moore Gymnasium (3,000). **Website:** www.cookman.edu

9. Coppin State, National Rank: 281

Outlook: Four players who would have returned were kicked off the team. That leaves Jimmy Boykin and Larry Tucker to carry on. They aren't shabby, but it's imperative that the rest of the crew plays in harmony, which wasn't the case last season. The Eagles play stifling defense but need drastic improvement with their perimeter shooting and rebounding. Boykin could be a conference MVP. Even so, it's questionable whether Coppin can weather the early part of a schedule that includes Marquette, Ohio State, NC State, Oklahoma, Oregon State and Illinois.
Key player: Larry Tucker, F, 6-4/Sr. (16.5 ppg, 6.8 rpg).
Coach: Ron "Fang" Mitchell (275-197, 16 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Coppin Center (1,720).
Website: www.coppin.edu/athletics

10. Norfolk State, National Rank: 299

Outlook: Dwight Freeman built a sterling reputation as a top-flight assistant at Miami, and he'll need that savvy. Freeman prefers a quick pace and pressure defense. The question is whether he has the crew to play that style. Because of the unexpected departure of three experienced post players, Norfolk State is in dire need of help inside. It would take a miracle for this mystery team to finish at .500.
Key player: Thomas Aladi, C, 6-10/Sr. (3.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg).
Coach: Dwight Freeman (1st year; 46-65 overall, 5 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Norfolk, Va. **Home court:** Echols Hall (7,700).
Website: www.nsu.edu/athletics

11. Morgan State, National Rank: 303

Outlook: The Bears will be decent in the backcourt, but the front line is shaky. Cedric Barrows and Randy Dukes can hold their own, but they can't carry the team. To make matters worse, the Bears will have to operate without Reggie Winkfield, their only all-star-caliber player. Winkfield had offseason hip surgery and won't be fully recovered until late February, so he'll redshirt this season. This figures to be another agonizing season.
Key player: Randy Dukes, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 46.9 3PT%).
Coach: Butch Beard (3-25, 1 year; 44-91 overall, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1976.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Hill Field House (4,500). **Website:** www.morgan.edu/athletics

MEAC Schedules

Bethune-Cookman

N23 at Canisius
N26 at Iona
N30 at La.-Lafayette
D3 at Florida A&M
D6 at Minnesota
D28 at Florida
D30 at Wake Forest
J6 at Delaware St.
J11 Howard
J13 Md.-Eastern Shore
J18 at Norfolk State
J20 at Hampton
J22 Savannah State
J25 Coppin State
J27 Morgan State
F1 at So. Carolina St.
F3 at N. Carolina A&T
F7 at Morris Brown
F10 Delaware State
F15 Howard
F17 at Md.-East. Shore
F22 Norfolk State
N24 Hampton
N26 Morris Brown
M1 at Morgan State
M3 Coppin State
M6 Florida A&M

Coppin State

N22-23 Blue & Gold Cl.
N26 at Ohio State
N30 at NC State
D4 George Mason
D7 at Morgan State
D14 at Oklahoma
D21 at Rider
D28 at Oregon State
D30 at Illinois
J4 North Carolina A&T
J6 South Carolina St.
J11 at Norfolk State
J18 Delaware State
J25 at Beth.-Cookman
J27 Florida A&M
F1 Howard
F3 at Md.-East. Shore
F8 at N. Carolina A&T
F10 at So. Carolina St.
F15 Norfolk State
F17 Hampton
F22 at Delaware State
M1 Florida A&M
M3 Bethune-Cookman
M8 Morgan State

Delaware State

N22 at West Virginia
N24 at Dayton
N30 at Hartford
D3 at Louisiana State
D7 Fair.-Dickinson
D16 at Creighton
D28 at Rutgers
D30 Central Michigan
J4 Florida A&M
J6 Bethune-Cookman
J11 at N. Carolina A&T
J13 at So. Carolina St.
J18 at Coppin State
J20 at Morgan State
J25 Md.-Eastern Shore
J27 Howard
F1 at Hampton
F3 Norfolk State
F8 at Florida A&M
F10 at Beth.-Cookman
F15 North Carolina A&T
F17 So. Carolina State
F22 Coppin State
F24 Morgan State
M1 at Md.-East. Shore
M3 at Howard

Florida A&M

N24 at Xavier
N26 at Cincinnati
N30 Alabama State
D3 Bethune-Cookman
D7 Central Florida
D16 Alabama A&M
D20 at Oregon
D30 at Florida
J4 at Delaware State
J7 at Morris Brown
J11 Md.-Eastern Shore
J13 Howard
J18 at Hampton
J20 at Norfolk State
J25 Morgan State
J27 Coppin State
F1 at N. Carolina A&T
F3 South Carolina St.
F8 Delaware State
F10 Morris Brown
F15 at Md.-East. Shore
F17 at Howard
F22 Hampton
F24 Norfolk State
M1 at Coppin State
M3 at Morgan State
M7 at Beth.-Cookman

Hampton

N25 Western Illinois
N27 Richmond
D4 Old Dominion
D7 Norfolk State
D19 at VCU
D28 at Akron
D30 at Ohio State
J4 at Md.-East. Shore
J6 at Howard
J8 at Maryland
J11 Morgan State
J13 Coppin State
J18 Florda A&M
J20 Bethune-Cookman
J25 at N.C. A&T
J27 at So. Carolina St.
F1 Delaware State
F3 William & Mary
F8 Md.-Eastern Shore
F10 Howard
F15 at Morgan State
F17 at Coppin State
F22 at Florida A&M
F24 at Beth.-Cookman
M1 North Carolina A&T
M3 South Carolina St.
M8 at Norfolk State

Howard

N22 at St. Francis (Pa)
N25 at Radford
D1 at CS Northridge
D3 at UC Berkeley
D7 St. Francis (N.Y.)
D8 at American
D20 Georgetown
D29-30 State Farm Cl.
J6 Hampton
J9 Norfolk State
J11 at Beth.-Cookman
J13 at Florida A&M
J18 South Carolina St.
J21 North Carolina A&T
J27 at Delaware State
J29 Md.-Eastern Shore
F1 at Coppin State
F3 Morgan State
F8 at Norfolk State
F10 at Hampton
F15 Bethune-Cookman
F17 Florida A&M
F22 at S. Carolina St.
F24 at N.Carolina A&T
M3 Delaware State
M6 at Md.-East. Shore

Md.-Eastern Shore

N22 at Northwestern
N30 Elon
D3 at New Mexico St.
D6 at Cleveland State
D12 at Towson
D14 at Old Dominion
D18 Robert Morris
D28 Hartford
D31 at Duquesne
J4 Hampton
J6 Norfolk State
J11 at Florida A&M
J13 at Beth.-Cookman
J18 No. Carolina A&T
J20 So. Carolina State
J25 at Delaware State
J30 at Howard
F1 at Morgan State
F3 Coppin State
F8 at Hampton
F10 at Norfolk State
F15 Florida A&M
F17 Bethune-Cookman
F22 at N. Carolina A&T
F24 at So. Carolina St.
M1 Delaware State
M6 Howard

Morgan State

N23, 25 Battle of Balt.
N30 at Fair. Dickinson
D5 Towson
D7 Coppin State
D9 Maine
D14 Virginia Tech
D17 Canisius
D22 William & Mary
D27-28 Texas A&M-C.C.
J4 South Carolina St.
J6 North Carolina A&T
J11 at Hampton
J13 at Norfolk
J20 Delaware
J25 at Florida A&M
J27 at Bethune-Cookman
F1 Md.-Eastern Shore
F3 at Howard
F8 at S. Carolina St.
F10 at No. Carolina A&T
F15 Hampton
F17 Norfolk
F24 Delaware State
M1 Bethune-Cookman
M3 Florida A&M
M8 at Coppin State

No. Carolina A&T

N23 Atlanta Invitational
N30 at Radford
D3 at VCU
D5 Elon
D14 NC State
D17 at Duke
D28 at Wake Forest
J4 at Coppin State
J6 at Morgan State
J11 Delaware State
J18 at Md.-East. Shore
J19 at N.C. Central
J21 at Howard
J25 Hampton
J27 Norfolk State
J30 at So. Carolina St.
F1 Florida A&M
F3 at Beth.-Cookman
F8 Coppin State
F10 Morgan State
F15 at Delaware State
F18 at North Carolina
F22 Md.-Eastern Shore
F24 Howard
M1 at Hampton
M3 at Norfolk State
M8 So. Carolina State

Norfolk State

N23 Western Illinois
N26 UMKC
D3 at Pittsburgh
D7 at Hampton
D14 at Towson
D16 at Georgetown
D21 UNC Greensboro
D28-29 Spider Invit.
J6 at Md.-East. Shore
J8 at Howard
J11 Coppin State
J13 Morgan State
J18 Bethune-Cookman
J20 Florida A&M
J25 at So. Carolina St.
J27 at No. Carolina A&T
F3 at Delaware State
F8 Howard
F10 Md.-Eastern Shore
F15 at Coppin State
F17 at Morgan State
F22 at Beth.-Cookman
F24 at Florida A&M
M1 So. Carolina State
M3 No. Carolina A&T
M8 Hampton

So. Carolina St.

N26 Coastal Carolina
N29 at South Carolina
D4 at Auburn
D7 at Alabama A&M
D14 at Jacksonville
D18 at Wake Forest
D21 at The Citadel
D29-30 Montana St. Trn.
J4 at Morgan State
J6 at Coppin State
J13 Delaware State
J18 at Howard
J20 at Md.-East. Shore
J25 Norfolk
J27 Hampton
J30 North Carolina A&T
F1 Bethune-Cookman
F3 at Florida A&M
F8 Morgan State
F10 Coppin State
F17 at Delaware State
F22 Howard
F24 Md.-Eastern Shore
M1 at Norfolk
M3 at Hampton
M8 at No.Carolina A&T

SWAC

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ra'Kim Hollis, Texas Southern	6-2	185	Sr.
G/F	Tim Henderson, Jackson State	6-3	210	Sr.
F	Paul Haynes, Grambling State	6-7	215	Jr.
F	Brian Jackson, Alcorn State	6-6	205	Sr.
F	Alvin Pettway, Alabama State	6-9	240	Sr.

Player of the Year

Paul Haynes, Grambling State

Newcomer of the Year

Solomon Forbes, F, Mississippi Valley State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: D'Jamel Jackson, Mississippi Valley St.
Best playmaker: Ashley Robinson, Mississippi Valley St.
Best dunker: Anthony Hayes, Alabama A&M
Best NBA prospect: Paul Haynes, Grambling State
Most likely to blossom: Lee Cook, Alcorn State
Best rebounder: Nicholas Egland, Southern
Best defender: Keith Gamble, Alabama State
Best game coach: Dave Whitney, Alcorn State
Most versatile: Brian Jackson, Alcorn State
Will take a charge: Cliff Walker, Jackson State

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Alcorn State*	16	2	20	9
Alabama A&M	12	6	19	10
Alabama State	12	6	19	13
Texas Southern	10	8	11	17
Mississippi Valley St.	9	9	12	17
Prairie View	8	10	10	20
Jackson State	8	10	9	19
Grambling State	7	11	9	19
Southern	6	12	7	20
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	2	16	2	26

*Lost to Siena in NCAA Tournament opening round.

1. Alcorn State, National Rank: 139

Outlook: Legendary coach Dave Whitney, who returns for his final season on The Reservation, welcomes back three starters but must find a way to replace all-everything F Marcus Fleming and dependable C Walter Harper. Two players expected to pick up the slack are multitalented Brian Jackson and talented but erratic Lee Cook. A big season from streaky shooter Jason Cable would be a big plus. The Braves usually find a way to rise to the top—they've won three of the last four league championships, 52 of their last 56 home games and 58 of their last 70 league games.
Key player: Brian Jackson, G, 6-6/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 48.5 FG%, 40.7 3PT%)
Coach: Dave Whitney (496-274, 26 years; 551-337 overall, 31 years; 3-6 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Lorman, Miss. **Home court:** Davey L. Whitney Complex (7,000). **Website:** www.alcorn.edu/athletics

2. Miss. Valley State, National Rank: 218

Outlook: No coach in the SWAC gives his team more freedom than Lafayette Stribling, who prefers an uptempo, hoist-it-from-deep approach. The Delta Devils were potent when they were hitting from 3-point territory last season but didn't have enough depth to finish games. They still will be thin inside, but Stribling returns more experience than any team in the league. Ashley Robinson, the league leader in assists, and D'Jamel Jackson are one of the top backcourt duos in the conference. Michael Archie was one of the top freshman in the league a year ago, and Solomon Forbes, who sat out last year, had received more accolades coming out of high school than Archie. Attarrius Norwood, inconsistent at times, could be primed for a breakout season.
Key player: Ashley Robinson, G, 5-8/Sr. (13.5 ppg, 6.0 apg).
Coach: Lafayette Stribling (267-282, 19 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Itta Bena, Miss. **Home court:** Harrison HPER Complex (5,500). **Website:** www.mvsu.edu

3. Alabama A&M, National Rank: 227

Outlook: G Desmond Cambridge, who led the league in scoring and steals, is gone. But don't expect Alabama A&M coach Vann Pettaway to change his philosophy. The Bulldogs still will play with reckless abandon—especially on the defensive end. Five players with three years of experience each return, led by Nigel Moore, one of several athletic 6-4 to 6-6 types on the roster. Pettaway is high on newcomers Michael Davis and Obediah Trotter, who each should log considerable minutes. The Bulldogs finished in the upper tier of the league the past two seasons, and this season should be no different.
Key player: Nigel Moore, F, 6-4/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 5.6 rpg).
Coach: Vann Pettaway (345-131, 16 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Normal, Ala. **Home court:** T.M. Elmore Gym (6,000). **Website:** www.aamu.edu/PR/sports/athletics

4. Alabama State, National Rank: 238

Outlook: Alabama State didn't repeat as SWAC champs, but the Hornets did the next best thing, finishing second and advancing to the SWAC tournament championship game. With leading scorer Tyrone Levett gone, the Hornets' offense will go through Alvin Pettway, the best low-post player in the league. Keith Gamble will be asked to do more, as will PG Malcolm Campbell, who should provide better floor leadership after gaining a year of experience last season. Coach Rob Spivery hopes incoming freshman Alexander Oliver can add much-needed scoring punch from the perimeter. The defensive-minded, low-scoring Hornets don't play the most exciting basketball, but it's effective.
Key player: Alvin Pettway, F, 6-9/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 6.9 rpg).
Coach: Rob Spivery (84-91, 6 years; 259-235 overall, 17 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2001.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: Montgomery, Ala. **Home court:** Joe L. Reed Acadome (8,000). **Website:** www.alasu.edu/sports

5. Texas Southern, National Rank: 254

Outlook: Coach Ronnie Courtney took a team expected to finish near the bottom of the SWAC and guided it to a surprising fourth-place finish in his first year. So surprising, in fact, that Alcorn State coach Dave Whitney, the conference's coach of the year, said he would've voted for Courtney. The Tigers should be much improved in Courtney's second year because he has brought in players to fit his style. Ra'Kim Hollis, the SWAC's third-leading scorer last season, is one of four returning starters. The arrival of newcomers Lionel Willis and Jerome Bell should make the Tigers more athletic. Willis and Bell both played at Willow Ridge High School in Sugar Land, Texas, where Courtney coached before coming to Texas Southern.
Key player: Ra'Kim Hollis, G, 6-2/Sr. (18.1 ppg, 5.2 rpg).
Coach: Ronnie Courtney (11-17, 1 year).
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Houston. **Home court:** Health & PE Arena (7,500).
Website: www.tsu.edu/athletics

6. Grambling State, National Rank: 290

Outlook: There was no question that Grambling underachieved last season. The Tigers featured SWAC Player of the Year F Paul Haynes and F William McDonald, the newcomer of the year from the previous season, and still finished seventh, barely qualifying for the league's postseason tournament. Ask coaches in the league which team has the most talent, and most will say Grambling without hesitation. Coach Larry Wright's task is to mold that talent into a winning product on the floor. A good place to start would be defense—Grambling finished last in the league in points allowed. Wright believes in playing freshman, so expect to see a lot of Brian Rosh and Allan Mason.
Key player: Paul Haynes, F, 6-7/Jr. (20.2 ppg, 8.4 rpg).
Coach: Larry Wright (18-67, 3 years).
Last league title: 1989.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Grambling, La. **Home court:** Memorial Gym (4,000).
Website: www.gram.edu/sports/grambling-sports.htm

7. Jackson State, National Rank: 297

Outlook: Coach Andy Stoglin has experienced his share of turbulent seasons at Jackson State, but none more so than last year. Days before the first game, seven players were arrested on charges of sexual battery and rape. Three transferred, and the others were reinstated in late February after a grand jury refused to return an indictment against them. Then, two games after their return, the Tigers were involved in a postgame melee at Alabama A&M. Seven seniors and three starters are gone from that team, so Stoglin will rely heavily on G/F Tim Henderson, the SWAC Newcomer of the Year last season, and F Cliff Walker, one of the most underrated players in the league. Five newcomers will be expected to contribute.
Key player: Tim Henderson, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (17.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg).
Coach: Andy Stoglin (187-198, 13 years; 220-221 overall, 15 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Jackson, Miss. **Home court:** Athletics and Assembly Center (8,000). **Website:** ccaix.jsums.edu/~tigersports/

8. Southern, National Rank: 312

Outlook: When Southern rehired Ben Jobe as coach before last season, he said he would try to "make lightning strike twice," referring to his highly successful first tenure with the program, which included a shocking upset of Georgia Tech in the 1993 NCAA Tournament. It didn't strike in Jobe's first season back, but the young Jaguars showed signs of improvement as the year progressed. F Nicholas Egland, the conference freshman of the year, is a solid player to build around, and backcourt mates Victor Tarver and Trayvean Scott are a formidable duo.
Key player: Nicholas Egland, F, 6-6/So. (10.4 ppg, 8.4 apg).
Coach: Ben Jobe (200-121, 11 years; 513-317 overall, 29 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Baton Rouge, La. **Home court:** Clark Activity Center (7,500). **Website:** www.subr.edu/athletics

9. Prairie View, National Rank: 316

Outlook: First-year coach Jerry Francis inherits a program with just 29 wins in the past four seasons. It's not a program without talent, however—four of last season's top five scorers are back, including SG Greg Burks and big man Roderick Riley. F Jamar Miles is a threat from the perimeter, and F Ray Lark has an array of post moves. Among the newcomers, G/F Malachi

Thurston should contribute immediately.
Key player: Greg Burks, G, 5-9/Sr. (17.6 ppg, 4.8 apg, 81.6 FT%).
Coach: Jerry Francis (1st year).
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Prairie View, Texas. **Home court:** Nicks Arena (5,000). **Website:** www.pvamu.edu/sports

10. Ark.-Pine Bluff, National Rank: 318

Outlook: The team is in disarray. Coach Harold Blevins was fired in mid-July and six-year UAPB assistant Van Holt was named interim coach. Blevins was 36-147 in seven seasons. The only recent positive for the Golden Lions is the money they made by playing guaranteed games on the road against big-name programs, but wins have been hard to come by. They started last season 0-18.
Key player: Kory McKee, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 41.8 FG%)
Coach: Van Holt, interim (first year).
Last league title: 1967.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Pine Bluff, Ark. **Home court:** HYPER Complex (8,000). **Website:** www.uapb.edu

SWAC Schedules

Alabama A&M

N22 Tuskegee
N24 at Vanderbilt
D2 at Mississippi St.
D7 S. Carolina St.*
D14 at Morris Brown
D16 at Florida A&M
D21 at UAB
J4 Grambling St.
J6 Jackson St.
J11 at Miss. Valley St.
J13 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J18 Alabama St.
J25 Alcorn St.
J27 Southern
F1 at Texas Southern
F3 at Prairie View
F8 Miss. Valley St.
F10 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F15 at Alabama St.
F19 Morris Brown
F22 at Alcorn St.
F24 at Southern
M1 Texas Southern
M3 Prairie View
M6 at Grambling St.
M8 at Jackson St.
*at Birmingham, Ala.

Alabama St.

N19-26 Guardians Cla.
N22 at Alabama
N26 at Mississippi
N30 at Florida A&M
D5 at Georgia St.
D7 Troy St.
D14 Montevallo
D21 Birm. Southern
D30 at Troy St.
J4 Jackson St.
J6 Grambling St.
J11 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J13 at Miss. Valley St.
J18 at Alabama A&M
J25 Southern
J27 Alcorn St.
F1 at Prairie View
F3 at Texas Southern
F8 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F10 Miss. Valley St.
F15 Alabama A&M
F22 at Southern
F24 at Alcorn St.
M1 Prairie View
M3 Texas Southern
M6 at Jackson St.
M8 at Grambling St.

Alcorn St.

N11 Tougaloo College
N23 at Baylor
N26 at UTEP
N30 at Jacksonville St.
D2 at South Florida
D7 at Ark.-Little Rock
D14 Jacksonville St.
D16 at La.-Lafayette
J2 at Kentucky
J4 Prairie View
J6 Texas Southern
J11 at Jackson St.
J13 at Grambling St.
J18 Miss. Valley St.
J20 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J25 at Alabama A&M
J27 at Alabama St.
F1 Southern
F8 Jackson St.
F10 Grambling St.
F15 at Miss. Valley St.
F17 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
F22 Alabama A&M
F24 Alabama St.
M1 at Southern
M6 at Texas Southern
M8 at Prairie View

Ark.-Pine Bluff

N23 at Georgia Tech
N27 at Illinois
N30 at Pittsburgh
D4 at Kansas St.
D14 Ark.-Little Rock
D16 at Arkansas St.
D18 at Miami (Fla.)
D28 at Mississippi
D31 at Iowa St.
J4 Miss. Valley St.
J11 Alabama St.
J13 Alabama A&M
J18 at Southern
J20 at Alcorn St.
J25 Texas Southern
J27 Prairie View
F1 at Grambling St.
F3 at Jackson St.
F8 at Alabama St.
F10 at Alabama A&M
F15 Southern
F17 Alcorn St.
F22 at Texas Southern
F24 at Prairie View
M1 Grambling St.
M3 Jackson St.
M8 Miss. Valley St.

Grambling St.

N16 Texas College
N19 Wiley College
N22 at Georgetown
N24-25 Thompson Chall.
D14 at N'western St.
D18 at Saint Louis
D20-21 Golden Bear Cl.
D30 at Texas Christian
J4 at Alabama A&M
J6 at Alabama St.
J11 Southern
J13 Alcorn St.
J18 at Prairie View
J20 at Texas Southern
J25 Jackson St.
F1 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F3 Miss. Valley St.
F8 at Southern
F10 at Alcorn St.
F15 Prairie View
F17 Texas Southern
F22 at Jackson St.
M1 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
M3 at Miss. Valley St.
M6 Alabama A&M
M8 Alabama St.

Jackson St.

N22 at Arkansas
N25 at Southern Miss.
N27 at New Orleans
N30 Louisiana Tech
D4 at Mississippi St.
D7 Utah St.
D19 at S. F. Austin
D21 at Louisiana Tech
D23 at Tulane
J4 at Alabama St.
J6 at Alabama A&M
J11 Alcorn St.
J13 Southern
J18 at Texas Southern
J20 at Prairie View
J25 at Grambling St.
F1 Miss. Valley St.
F3 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F8 at Alcorn St.
F10 at Southern
F15 Texas Southern
F17 Prairie View
F22 Grambling St.
M1 at Miss. Valley St.
M3 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
M6 Alabama St.
M8 Alabama A&M

Miss. Valley St.

N26 at Wis.-Milwaukee
N28 at Texas-Pan Am.
D3 at Delta St.
D7 Oral Roberts
D11 Delta St.
D14 Wisc.-Milwaukee
D21 at Oral Roberts
D27-28 Cable Car Cl.
J4 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J11 Alabama A&M
J13 Alabama St.
J18 at Alcorn St.
J20 at Southern
J25 Prairie View
J27 Texas Southern
F1 at Jackson St.
F3 at Grambling St.
F8 at Alabama A&M
F10 at Alabama St.
F15 Alcorn St.
F17 Southern
F22 at Prairie View
F24 at Texas Southern
M1 Jackson St.
M3 Grambling St.
M8 Ark.-Pine Bluff

Prairie View

N23 at Houston
N26 at Tulsa
D3 at Oklahoma
D7 Texas A&M
D17 at Louisiana St.
D21 at Wyoming
D27 at Colorado St.
D30 at Ark.-Little Rock
J4 at Alcorn St.
J6 at Southern
J11 Texas Southern
J18 Grambling St.
J20 Jackson St.
J25 at Miss. Valley St.
J27 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
F1 Alabama St.
F3 Alabama A&M
F8 at Texas Southern
F11 Texas A&M-C.C.
F15 at Jackson St.
F17 at Grambling St.
F22 Miss. Valley St.
F24 Ark.-Pine Bluff
M1 at Alabama St.
M3 at Alabama A&M
M6 Southern
M8 Alcorn St.

Southern

N22-24 Hisp. Coll. Fund
D2 at San Francisco
D14 at Nicholls St.
D16 Tuskegee
D18 Texas-Pan Am.
J4 Texas Southern
J6 Prairie View
J11 at Grambling St.
J13 at Jackson St.
J18 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
J20 Miss. Valley St.
J22 at Texas-Pan Am.
J25 at Alabama St.
J27 at Alabama A&M
F1 at Alcorn St.
F4 Centenary
F8 Grambling St.
F10 Jackson St.
F15 at Ark-Pine Bluff.
F17 at Miss. Valley St.
F19 West Alabama
F22 Alabama St.
F24 Alabama A&M
M1 Alcorn St.
M3 Morris Brown
M6 at Prairie View
M8 at Texas Southern

Texas Southern

N24 at Texas A&M
N29 SW Texas St.
D3 Lamar
D7 Stephen F. Austin
D21 at Wisconsin
D23 at Chicago St.
D27-28 Islander Classic
J4 at Southern
J6 at Alcorn St.
J11 at Prairie View
J14 Texas-Pan Am.
J18 Jackson St.
J20 Grambling St.
J25 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J27 at Miss. Valley St.
F1 Alabama A&M
F3 Alabama St.
F8 Prairie View A&M
F15 at Jackson St.
F17 at Grambling St.
F22 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F24 Miss. Valley St.
M1 at Alabama A&M
M3 at Alabama St.
M6 Alcorn St.
M8 Southern

Rank 28

By Will Parrish, The Rock Hill (S.C.) Herald

Big South

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Andre Smith, UNC Asheville	6-2	165	Sr.
G	Pierre Wooten, Winthrop	6-3	172	Sr.
F	Tyrone Walker, Winthrop	6-6	228	Jr.
F	Dustin Van Weerdhuizen, H. Point	6-6	220	Sr.
F	Torrey Butler, Coastal Carolina	6-3	205	Sr.

Player of the Year

Andre Smith, UNC Asheville

Newcomer of the Year

Marcus Cooke, F, Winthrop

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Torrey Butler, Coastal Carolina
Best playmaker: Andre Smith, UNC Asheville
Best dunker: Billy Allen, UNC Asheville
Best NBA prospect: Andre Smith, UNC Asheville
Most likely to blossom: Tyrone Walker, Winthrop
Best rebounder: Dustin Van Weerdhuizen, High Point
Best defender: Tyron Myers, Winthrop
Best game coach: Gregg Marshall, Winthrop
Most versatile: Andre Smith, UNC Asheville
Will take a charge: Ross Sims, Elon

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Winthrop*	10	4	19	12
UNC Asheville	10	4	13	15
Radford	9	5	15	16
Charleston Southern	8	6	12	17
Elon	7	7	13	16
High Point	5	9	11	19
Coast Carolina	5	9	8	20
Liberty	2	12	5	25

*Lost to Duke in NCAA South first round.

1. UNC Asheville, National Rank: 113

Outlook: The Bulldogs always are in the hunt for the tournament championship but never have reached the NCAA Tournament. UNCA tied with Winthrop for the regular-season title last year but lost to High Point in the first round of the conference tournament. Four starters return, headed by multitalented G Andre Smith, the most versatile player in the league. Smith can take over a game on both ends of the floor. Billy Allen is a powerful forward who led the team in rebounding. He also is an explosive scorer. Senior Ben McGonagil is a workmanlike center who is a strong inside threat. Alex Kragel and Brandon Carter are excellent role players. Three freshmen also could make an impact.
Key player: Andre Smith, G, 6-2/Sr. (16.2 ppg).
Coach: Eddie Biedenbach (87-84, 6 years; 116-135 overall, 9 years).
Last league title: 2002 (tied with Winthrop).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Asheville, N.C. **Home courts:** Justice Center (1,100), Asheville Civic Center (6,000).
Website: www.unca.edu/athletics

2. Winthrop, National Rank: 128

Outlook: The Eagles lost eight scholarship players, including Big South Player of the Year Greg Lewis, from a team that advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth straight year. Still, the cupboard is far from bare. Pierre Wooten and Tyrone Walker are all-conference players. Walker, a former rookie of the year, became a team leader when Lewis was injured and should come up big as a junior. Wooten and Tyron Myers form what might be the best defensive backcourt in the conference. A solid recruiting class features three junior college transfers and two talented freshmen. Two of the transfers, Marcus Cooke and Elijah Holland, have a good chance of starting, and freshmen James Shuler and Billy Houston will get plenty of minutes.
Key player: Tyrone Walker, F, 6-6/Jr. (11.0 ppg., 6.0 rpg).
Coach: Gregg Marshall (79-42, 4 years; 0-4 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002 (tied with UNC Asheville).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Rock Hill, S.C. **Home court:** Winthrop Coliseum (6,100). **Website:** www.winthropeagles.com

3. High Point, National Rank: 212

Outlook: The Panthers return most of the team that shocked the conference by advancing to the tournament final as a No. 7 seed. Throw in a couple of new faces, and High Point enters the season with experience and talent. F Dustin Van Weerdhuizen and G Joe Knight were premier players and will anchor coach Jerry Steele's patterned attack. Matt Anderson likely will step in at the point, which will allow Knight, the league's rookie of the year, to move to shooting guard to take advantage of his scoring ability. Virginia Tech transfer Danny Gathings will start at forward. Jeremy McCall, a 6-11 redshirt freshman, should step in at center. The bench is solid and experienced.
Key player: Dustin Van Weerdhuizen F, 6-6/Sr. (16.5 ppg, 6.7 rpg).
Coach: Jerry Steele (470-423, 30 years; 621-497 overall, 38 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: High Point, N.C. **Home court:** Millis Center (2,565). **Website:** www.highpointpanthers.com

4. Coastal Carolina, National Rank: 228

Outlook: Coastal was beset by injuries last season and at times had more players on the bench in street clothes than in uniform. The biggest losses were Torrey Butler, a former Big South Player of the Year, and blue-collar F Clint Reed to foot sprains. Though their absences hurt, players such as Alvin Green, Derrick Robinson and Tony Darden stepped up. Green, a former conference all-rookie selection, is a quick guard who can create off the dribble. Robinson developed into one of the league's premier forwards, even though defenses concentrated on him because Butler was sidelined. Green and Brandon Newby are as good a guard tandem as any in the league.
Key player: Alvin Green G, 5-9/Jr. (10.6 ppg).
Coach: Pete Strickland (33-78, 4 years).
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Conway, S.C.; **Home court:** Kimbel Gym (1,800).
Website: www.coastal.edu/athletics

5. Charleston So., National Rank: 279

Outlook: The Buccaneers return five starters, led by Ed O'Neil, a top-notch playmaker who is expected to pick up his scoring. O'Neil also leads Charleston's various defenses, which have baffled more than one opponent. Charles White, James Seegars, Gene Granger and the Warzynski brothers, Chris and Kevin, offer balanced scoring. A weak area is rebounding.
Key player: Ed O'Neil G, 6-0/Jr. (6.5 ppg, 4.2 apg).
Coach: Jim Platt (22-36, 2 years).
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** CSU Fieldhouse (1,500). **Website:** www.csusports.com

6. Elon, National Rank: 301

Outlook: The Phoenix relied on a solid perimeter game the past four seasons. But because four-year starter Brendon Rowell is gone, the team will go inside to Gary Marsh and Jackson Atoyebi. PG Ross Sims, who played all last season with a knee injury, had 102 assists. Senior Shamar Johnson ranked seventh among NCAA D-I players 6-5 or shorter in blocked shots (1.3 ppg). Simons likes an uptempo game, but the Phoenix must improve its rebounding.
Key player: Gary Marsh, F, 6-6/Soph. (10.3 ppg, 5.0 rpg).
Coach: Mark Simons (97-134, 9 years; 192-256 overall, 16 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Elon, N.C. **Home court:** Alumni Gym (1,768).
Website: www.elon/edu/athletics

7. Radford, National Rank: 305

Outlook: Gone are four-year standouts Correy Watkins, Andrey Savtchenko, B.J. Haigler and Nosa Obasuyi. Even Ron Bradley, dean of BSC coaches with 11 years at Radford, took an assistant's job at James Madison. G Peanut Arrington is solid, but he's the only senior and experienced starter. Don't be surprised if new coach Byron Samuels starts three freshmen and at times goes with three or four guards in his lineup.
Key player: Peanut Arrington, G, 6-4/Sr. (14.5 ppg).
Coach: Byron Samuels (1st year).
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Radford, Va. **Home court:** Dedmon Center (5,000).
Website: www.radford.edu/Athletics

8. Liberty, National Rank: 320

Outlook: Randy Dunton is in his second stint as the Flames' coach, having served as interim coach in 1997-98 after Jeff Meyer unexpectedly stepped down. Liberty returns just two starters and six letter-winners, with the biggest loss being Chris Caldwell, who led the Flames in six categories. Senior F Vincent Okotie ranked second on the team in scoring, and F Philip Ward shot 60 percent from the field and had 25 blocked shots. Junior F Jason Sarchet led the team in rebounding. Two freshmen, including Alabama player of the year Jeremy Monceaux, and two transfers can score and will vie for playing time.
Key player: Vincent Okotie F, 6-8/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 4.0 rpg).
Coach: Randy Dunton (11-17, 1 year; 43-41 overall, 3 years).
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Lynchburg, Va. **Home court:** Vines Center (8,500). **Website:** www.liberty.edu/athletics

Birmingham-Southern

Outlook: The Panthers, a provisional D-I team, aren't eligible for a league title, but they did prove competitive last season, going 6-6 vs. BSC teams. That mark might have been better had Corey Watkins, the team's top scorer the year before, not been lost to a knee injury. Watkins, a redshirt senior, returns. G Jakob Sigurdarson is a solid player, but C Michael Bilostinnyi must get stronger and improve his scoring and rebounding. F Josiah James must increase his numbers so he can take pressure off Watkins.
Key player: Jakob Sigurdarson G, 6-4/So. (9.0 ppg, 2.0 rpg).
Coach: Duane Rebold (328-85, 13 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Birmingham, Ala. **Home court:** Bill Battle Coliseum (2,000). **Website:** www.bscsports.net

Big South Schedules

Birm.-Southern
N22 at UAB
N27 at South Alabama
N30 Covenant (Ga.)
D2 Stetson
D5 Texas College
D8 Louisiana-Lafayette
D15 at Florida State
D19 Nicholls State
D21 at Alabama State
D29 at Robert Morris
J2 at Coastal Carolina
J4 at Charleston So.
J8 Radford
J12 Winthrop
J15 UNC Asheville
J18 at High Point
J20 at Elon
J25 at Savannah State
J29 Liberty
F1 Coastal Carolina
F5 Charleston Southern
F8 at UNC Asheville
F10 at Winthrop
F15 Elon
F19 High Point
F22 at Liberty
F24 at Radford
F27 Savannah State

Charleston So.
N22 at Col. of Charleston
N26 Anderson
N30 at Stetson
D2 at The Citadel
D11 Voorhees
D14 at Michigan
D17 at Tennessee
D23 at Florida
D28 Georgia State
D30 Fairfield
J2 at William & Mary
J4 Birm.-Southern
J8 at UNC Asheville
J11 at Elon
J13 at High Point
J18 Radford
J20 Liberty
J25 at Coastal Carolina
J29 Winthrop
F5 at Birm.-Southern
F8 High Point
F10 Elon
F15 at Liberty
F17 at Radford
F22 at Winthrop
F24 UNC Asheville
M1 Coastal Carolina

Coastal Carolina
N22 at Western Carolina
N24 at Florida
N26 at S. Carolina St.
N30 at Campbell
D2 at Georgetown
D7 Navy
D20 at East Tenn. State
D23 East Carolina
D29 Lees-McRae
D31 at Clemson
J2 Birm.-Southern
J8 at Winthrop
J11 at High Point
J13 at Elon
J18 Liberty
J20 Radford
J25 Charleston Southern
J30 at UNC Asheville
F1 at Birm.-Southern
F8 Elon
F10 High Point
F15 at Radford
F17 at Liberty
F22 UNC Asheville
F26 Winthrop
M1 at Charleston So.

Elon
N23 Mercer
N27 St. Mary's (Md.)
N30 at Md.-East. Shore
D2 Bluefield College
D5 at NC A&T
D14 at UNC Greensboro
D18 at Northwestern
D21 at Marquette
D28 at American
J2 at Liberty
J4 at Winthrop
D7 at Wake Forest
J11 Charleston Southern
J13 Coastal Carolina
J18 at UNC Asheville
J20 Birm.-Southern
J22 at Georgia Tech
J25 High Point
J29 at Radford
F1 Winthrop
F5 Liberty
F8 at Coastal Carolina
F10 at Charleston So.
F15 at Birm.-Southern
F19 UNC Asheville
F22 Radford
M1 at High Point

High Point
N22-23 Mohegan Sun Cl.
N27 Clemson
D3 at Kentucky
D5 at The Citadel
D7 Averett (Va.)
D15 at Vanderbilt
D17 at Campbell
D21 at Washington State
D28 Campbell
D31 at UNC Greensboro
J2 UNC Asheville
J4 at Radford
J9 at Liberty
J11 Coastal Carolina
J13 Charleston So.
J18 Birm.-Southern
J22 at Winthrop
J25 at Elon
F1 Radford
F5 at UNC Asheville
F8 at Charleston So.
F10 at Coastal Carolina
F15 Winthrop
F19 at Birm.-Southern
F26 Liberty
M1 Elon

Liberty
N23 at VMI
N26 William & Mary
N30 at New Hampshire
D3 American
D7 Western Carolina
D10 VMI
D14 McNeese State
D20 Florida Atlantic
D22 at Iowa
D28 at Clemson
D30 at Virginia
J2 Elon
J5 at UNC Asheville
J9 High Point
J16 Winthrop
J18 at Coastal Carolina
J20 at Charleston So.
J25 Radford
J29 at Birm.-Southern
F1 UNC Asheville
F5 at Elon
F8 at Winthrop
F15 Charleston So.
F17 Coastal Carolina
F22 Birm.-Southern
F26 at High Point
M1 at Radford

UNC Asheville
N22 at Michigan State
N24 at Minnesota
N29 Montreat College
D2 Western Carolina
D7 at East Tenn. State
D14 Campbell
D21 at Connecticut
D23 at Holy Cross
D20 at Oklahoma
J2 at Kansas
J5 Liberty
J8 Charleston So.
J11 at Radford
J15 at Birm.-Southern
J18 Elon
J20 Mercer
J25 Winthrop
J27 at High Point
J30 Coastal Carolina
F1 at Liberty
F5 High Point
F8 Birm.-Southern
F12 Radford
F19 at Elon
f22 at Coastal Carolina
F24 at Charleston So.
M1 Winthrop

Radford
N22 at Richmond
N24 at William & Mary
N26 Howard
N30 North Carolina A&T
D3 East Carolina
D6 at American
D14 at Marshall
D21 at Akron
D23 at Ohio State
D27-28 Florida Int'l Trn.
J2 Winthrop
J4 High Point
J8 at Birm.-Southern
J11 UNC Asheville
J18 at Charleston So.
J20 at Coastal Carolina
J25 at Liberty
J29 Elon
F1 at High Point
F5 at Winthrop
F12 at UNC Asheville
F15 Coastal Carolina
F17 Charleston Southern
F22 at Elon
F24 Birm.-Southern
M1 Liberty

Winthrop
N15-16 NABC Classic
N25 Nyack College
N27 at Gardner-Webb
D1 at Montana State
D3 at Utah
D6-7 Winthrop Shootout
D19 at Clemson
J2 at Radford
J4 Elon
J8 Coastal Carolina
J12 at Birm.-Southern
J16 at Liberty
J22 High Point
J25 UNC Asheville
J29 at Charleston So.
F1 at Elon
F5 Radford
F8 Liberty
F10 Birm.-Southern
F12 Gardner-Webb
F15 at High Point
F22 Charleston Southern
F26 at Coastal Carolina
M1 at UNC Asheville

Patriot

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jave Meade, Holy Cross	6-1	180	Jr.
G	Mark Linebaugh, Colgate	6-2	188	Jr.
F	Tim Szatko, Holy Cross	6-8	220	Sr.
F	Boakai Lalugba, Bucknell	6-6	220	Sr.
F	Matt Logie, Lehigh	6-5	190	Sr.

Player of the Year

Tim Szatko, Holy Cross

Newcomer of the Year

Neil Fingleton, C, Holy Cross

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Mark Linebaugh, Colgate
Best playmaker: Jave Meade, Holy Cross
Best dunker: Boakai Lalugba, Bucknell
Best NBA prospect: Neil Fingleton, Holy Cross
Most likely to blossom: Howard Blue, Colgate
Best rebounder: Francis Ebong, Navy
Best defender: Jave Meade, Holy Cross
Best game coach: Ralph Willard, Holy Cross
Most versatile: Tim Szatko, Holy Cross
Will take a charge: Jason Jeanpierre, Navy

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
American	10	4	18	12
Holy Cross*	9	5	18	14
Colgate	8	6	17	11
Lafayette	8	6	15	14
Bucknell	8	6	13	16
Army	6	8	12	16
Navy	5	9	10	20
Lehigh	2	12	5	23

*Lost to Kansas in NCAA Midwest first round.

1. Holy Cross, National Rank: 109

Outlook: The Crusaders finished second in the standings last season but won the conference tournament and then scared Kansas in the NCAAs. There is plenty returning for an encore, save G Ryan Serravalle. Senior F Tim Szatko is back, ready to make a bid for Patriot Player of the Year honors. He'll have big help up front in 7-6 North Carolina transfer Neil Fingleton. Junior Jave Meade is a fine distributor and tenacious defender, while senior Brian Wilson is a capable wing. Sophomore Michael Smiley is the leading candidate to replace Serravalle, and senior Patrick Whearty and sophomore Nate Lufkin are strong frontcourt reserves who could start on several Patriot League teams.
Key players: Tim Szatko, F, 6-8/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 6.7 rpg).
Coach: Ralph Willard (50-41, 3 years; 194-165 overall, 12 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Worcester, Mass. **Home court:** Hart Center (3,600). **Website:** www.holycross.edu

2. Colgate, National Rank: 204

Outlook: The Red Raiders return three starters. That should be enough to keep this team close to the top. Everything isn't perfect, though. Colgate must find a way to replace Pat Campolieta's 14.8 points and 7.2 rebounds per game. Expect junior Mark Linebaugh, who averaged 14.1 points last season, to emerge as the team's main attraction. Junior Howard Blue, a 6-7 interior player, will provide plenty of support. Dave Hardy is a capable point guard and pretty good defender.
Key players: Mark Linebaugh, G, 6-2/Jr. (14.1 ppg); Howard Blue, F, 6-7/Jr. (11.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg).
Coach: Emmett Davis (57-56, 4 years).
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Hamilton, N.Y. **Home court:** Cotterell Court (3,100). **Website:** www.gocolgateraiders.com

3. Bucknell, National Rank: 265

Outlook: The good news starts with 6-6 senior Boakai Lalugba, a first-team all-league selection and a strong interior performer. Dan Blankenship is a steady distributor. Look for 6-8 Brian Werner to continue producing in the post, especially if his shooting improves. Junior Matt Quinn should show improved wing play, but he needs to pick up his 3-point shooting. The big question is who will replace G Bryan Bailey, a first-team all-league performer last year and the Bison's leading scorer (17.6 ppg). The answer could be 6-2 freshman Kevin Bettencourt.
Key player: Boakai Lalugba, F/C, 6-6/Sr. (14.9 ppg, 7.1 rpg).
Coach: Pat Flannery (121-106, 8 years; 216-149 overall, 13 years).
Last league title: 1989.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Lewisburg, Pa. **Home court:** Davis Gym (1,800). **Website:** www.bucknellbison.com

4. American, National Rank: 271

Outlook: The Eagles return three starters from last season's regular-season league championship team, but those players combined for just 25 points a game. Senior G Steven Miles is a strong shooter who also can set up his teammates. The same can be said of senior G Glenn Stokes. Both must cut back on their turnovers. Junior G Andres Rodriguez doesn't shoot much, but he distributes well and can penetrate. There isn't much up front, so 6-5 Jernavis Draughn must make an immediate contribution. So must 6-10 freshman Jarrod Kohl.
Key players: Steven Miles, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg); Glenn Stokes, G, 5-7/Sr. (2.9 apg).
Coach: Jeff Jones (25-32, 2 years; 171-136 overall, 10 years; 5-5 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Bender Arena (4,500). **Website:** www.aueagles.com

5. Navy, National Rank: 295

Outlook: The Midshipmen appear ready for a renaissance. The success of this squad might depend on the play of its point guards. Sophomore Taj Mathews and junior Kwame Ofori will fight for time there. Mathews was inconsistent last year, and the 5-11 Ofori showed promise. Senior wing Jason Jeanpierre is a solid long-range shooter and can distribute, while the inside tandem of seniors Francis Ebong and Mitch Moore is steady. Coach Don DeVoe hopes 6-7 senior Kyle Barker can provide some pop from outside and needs senior Scott Long to rebound.
Key players: Jason Jeanpierre, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 3.3 apg); Francis Ebong, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (7.3 rpg).
Coach: Don DeVoe (171-118, 10 years; 499-346 overall, 29 years; 5-10 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Annapolis, Md. **Home court:** Alumni Hall (5,700). **Website:** www.navysports.com

6. Lafayette, National Rank: 298

Outlook: The Leopards must find candidates to replace all-league wing Brian Burke and top 3-point men Ben Saxton and Mick Kuberka. Two double-figure scorers—junior SG Justin DeBerry, a strong long-range marksman, and junior F Mike Farrell—are back. Senior Andrew Pleick took over at the point at midseason last year and showed the ability to run the team. Junior swingman Winston Davis could get more minutes. Expect freshman G Pat Betley to make an immediate splash with his scoring. Jamie Hughes, a 7-0 sophomore, could be an impact player.
Key player: Justin DeBerry, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.4 ppg).
Coach: Fran O'Hanlon (110-91, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2000.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Easton, Pa. **Home court:** Kirby Sports Center (3,500). **Website:** www.goleopards.com

7. Lehigh, National Rank: 307

Outlook: New coach Billy Taylor has plenty of work ahead of him, but the cupboard isn't bare. F Matt Logie is the top returning scorer in league play (17.3 ppg). He'll get support from senior Matt Crawford, a willing banger in the middle who must improve his rebounding. Senior Zlatko Savovic, junior Ra Tiah and sophomore Jamal Williams will compete for the point guard job.
Key players: Matt Logie, F, 6-5/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 39.8 3PT%, 92.8 FT%).
Coach: Billy Taylor (1st year).
Last league title: 1988 (East Coast).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Bethlehem, Pa. **Home court:** Stabler Arena (5,600). **Website:** www.lehigh.edu

8. Army, National Rank: 317

Outlook: Jim Crews had some success at Evansville, but he'll find things pretty tough at Army. Two starters—junior G J.P. Spatola and senior F Matt Collins—return, though neither was particularly productive last year. Expect 6-6 junior Josh Wilson to put his post moves to good use as the small forward. Junior Andy Smith (6-3) is a shooter, and 6-2 freshman Mike Mehanna is a versatile guard. The Cadets were smacked around on the boards last year, and a lack of height indicates more rebounding trouble.
Key player: J.P. Spatola, G, 6-0/Jr. (4.9 apg).
Coach: Jim Crews (1st year; 294-209 overall, 17 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: West Point, N.Y. **Home court:** Cristl Arena (5,043). **Website:** www.goarmysports.com

Patriot Schedules

American

N22 at Missouri
N25 at UNC Greensboro
N29 at Virginia Tech
D3 at Liberty
D6 Radford
D9 Howard
D20 at C. of Charleston
D22 at Fairfield
D28 Elon
D30 at Wagner
J2 George Wash.
J4 St. Francis (Pa.)
J8 at Penn
J11 at Bucknell
J15 Navy
J18 at Lehigh
J24 Colgate
J26 Holy Cross
J31 at Lafayette
F2 at Army
F8 Bucknell
F12 at Navy
F15 Lehigh
F21 at Holy Cross
F23 at Colgate
F27 Army
M1 Lafayette

Army

N23 at Fair. Dickinson
N29 NYC Tech
D1 at Stony Brook
D6 at Columbia
D9 Albany
D12 at Stony Brook
D30 at Marist
J3 Cornell
J5 Coast Guard
J7 Fair. Dickinson
J11 at Holy Cross
J15 Lafayette
J18 at Colgate
J20 Yale
J24 at Bucknell
J26 at Lehigh
J31 Navy
F2 American
F8 Holy Cross
F12 at Lafayette
F15 Colgate
F21 Lehigh
F23 Bucknell

(Patriot continued)

F27 at American
M1 at Navy

Bucknell

N22 at Notre Dame
N26 at Albany
D3 Canisius
D7 St. Francis (Pa.)
D9 Fair. Dickinson
D27-28 azcentral.com Cl.
F20 at Penn State
J4 Niagara
J7 Robert Morris
J11 American
J15 Lehigh
J18 at Navy
J21 at Cornell
J24 Army
J26 Lafayette
J31 at Colgate
F2 at Holy Cross
F8 at American
F12 at Lehigh
F15 Navy
F21 at Lafayette
F23 at Army
F28 Holy Cross
M2 Colgate

Colgate

N22-23 Pepsi-Marist Cl.
N26 Cornell
N30 Hobart
D3 at Syracuse
D6 New Hampshire
D8 Long Island
D13 Harvard
D23 at Drexel
D30 Hartwick
J2 at Albany
J4 at Oral Roberts
J7 at Dartmouth
J11 Lafayette
J15 at Holy Cross
J18 Army
J24 at American
J26 at Navy
J31 Bucknell
F2 Lehigh
F7 at Lafayette
F12 Holy Cross
F15 at Army
F21 Navy
F23 American
F28 at Lehigh
M2 at Bucknell

George Mason

N22 at Cent. Michigan
N24 at Southern Ill.
N30 Mississippi
D2 Duquesne
D4 at Coppin State
D7 Niagara
D19 at East Carolina
D23 Hartford
D28 at Pittsburgh
J2 Delaware
J4 Drexel
J8 at Hofstra
J11 at Towson
J15 VCU
J18 at James Madison
J22 at Old Dominion
J25 William & Mary
J27 UNC Wilmington
F1 Towson
F5 at Delaware
F8 at VCU
F12 Hofstra
F15 at William & Mary
F19 at UNC Wilmington
F22 James Madison
F24 Old Dominion
M1 at Drexel

Holy Cross

N19-29 Preseason NIT
N23 Dowling
N26 at Harvard
D1 Boston College
D7 at Brown
D11-12 Phoe. Classic
D23 UNC Asheville
D28 at Marist
D31 at Fordham
J3 Princeton
J7 at Quinnipiac
J11 Army
J15 Colgate
J18 at Lafayette
J21 Dartmouth
J24 at Navy
J26 at American
J31 Lehigh
F2 Bucknell
F8 at Army
F12 at Colgate
F15 Lafayette
F21 American
F23 Navy
F28 at Bucknell
M2 at Lehigh

Lafayette

N23 at Binghamton
N26 at La Salle
N30 at Arizona State
D3 Drexel
D5 Centenary
D7 Princeton
D17 Ursinus
D19 at St. Peter's
D21 at Massachusetts
D30 Albany
J2 Columbia
J5 at Cornell
J11 at Colgate
J15 at Army
J18 Holy Cross
J21 Penn
J24 at Lehigh
J26 at Bucknell
J31 American
F2 Navy
F7 Colgate
F15 at Holy Cross
F21 Bucknell
F23 Lehigh
F27 at Navy
M1 at American

Lehigh

N22 Dartmouth
N25 at Notre Dame
N27 Swarthmore
N30-D1 Hofstra Trn.
D4 Cornell
D7 at Harvard
D9 Columbia
D23 at Stony Brook
D30 at Miami (Fla.)
J2 at Wagner
J4 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J8 Haverford
J11 at Navy
J15 at Bucknell
J18 American
J24 Lafayette
J26 Army
J31 at Holy Cross
F2 at Colgate
F8 Navy
F12 Bucknell
F15 at American
F21 at Army
F23 at Lafayette
F28 Colgate
M2 Holy Cross

Navy

N22 Central Florida
N25 The Citadel
N30 Brown
D2 at Belmont
D4 Johns Hopkins
D7 at Coastal Carolina
D14 Gettysburg
D20 at Ohio
D23 Rice
D28 Eastern Michigan
D30 at Mount St. Mary's
J2 Davidson
J4 at Air Force
J11 Lehigh
J15 at American
J18 Bucknell
J24 Holy Cross
J26 Colgate
J31 at Army
F2 at Lafayette
F8 at Lehigh
F12 American
F15 at Bucknell
F21 at Colgate
F23 at Holy Cross
F27 Lafayette
M1 Army

Rank 30

By Charlie Lentz, free-lance writer

Northeast

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Damian Battles, Cent. Conn. St.	6-3	210	Sr.
G	Antawn Dobie, Long Island	6-0	165	Sr.
G	Rob Monroe, Quinnipiac	5-10	160	So.
F	Jermaine Hall, Wagner	6-5	210	Sr.
F	Ricardo Scott, Cent. Conn. St.	6-4	190	Jr.

Player of the Year

Jermaine Hall, Wagner

Newcomer of the Year

Darshan Luckey, G, St. Francis (Pa.)

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Rob Monroe, Quinnipiac
Best playmaker: Antawn Dobie, Long Island
Best dunker: Jermaine Hall, Wagner
Best NBA prospect: Kibwe Trim, Sacred Heart
Most likely to blossom: Kibwe Trim, Sacred Heart
Best rebounder: Jeremy Bishop, Quinnipiac
Best defender: Courtney Pritchard, Wagner
Best game coach: Howie Dickenman, Central Conn. St.
Most versatile: Rob Monroe, Quinnipiac
Will take a charge: Damian Battles, Central Conn. St.

Team Standings

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Central Conn. State*	19	1	27	5
Md.-Baltimore County	15	5	20	9
Wagner^	15	5	19	10
Monmouth	14	6	18	12
St. Francis (N.Y.)	13	7	18	11
Robert Morris	11	9	12	18
Quinnipiac	10	10	14	16
Sacred Heart	7	13	8	20
St. Francis (Pa.)	5	15	6	21
Long Island	5	15	5	22
Fairleigh Dickinson	4	16	4	25
Mount St. Mary's	2	18	3	24

*Lost to Pittsburgh in NCAA South first round.
^Lost to Richmond in NIT opening round.

1. Wagner, National Rank: 156

Outlook: Although the No. 2-seeded Seahawks were shocked in the quarterfinals of the NEC tournament last season, the nucleus returns.
F Jermaine Hall, a first-team all-league selection, leads the returners. He turned the lane into a dunk tank last season while averaging 21 points and shooting 60 percent from the field. Senior SG Dedrick Dye and junior PG Courtney Pritchard, last year's NEC Defensive Player of the Year, form an experienced backcourt duo. Junior F/C Nigel Wyatte will complement Hall with interior defense, shot blocking and rebounding. Sean Munson, a 6-8 transfer from Lafayette College, also will help inside. Coach Dereck Whittenburg went 6-12 in the NEC in his first season, 11-9 two years ago and 15-5 last season. Wagner again hosts the first two rounds of the NEC tourney and hopes to use its Grymes Hill venue as a springboard to its first tourney title and trip to the NCAA Tournament.
Key player: Jermaine Hall, F, 6-5/Sr. (21.0 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 60.0 FG%, 75.9 FT%, 44.4 3PT%).
Coach: Dereck Whittenburg (47-39, 3 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Staten Island, N.Y. **Home court:** Spiro Sports Center (2,100). **Website:** www.wagner.edu/athletics

2. Central Connecticut State, National Rank: 169

Outlook: Corsley Edwards, the league's only NBA draftee, commanded double-teams in the post that left SG Damian Battles and Fs Ricardo Scott and Ron Robinson open last season. The offense won't flow through the middle this season, but the trademark stifling defense is back. Senior PG John Alexander returns, and freshman Lenny Jefferson will add depth at the point. Robinson should get some help in the middle from junior Rich Pittman and sophomore Robert Barrett.
Key players: Damian Battles, G, 6-3/Sr. (14.2 ppg, 3.4 apg, 81.1 FT%), Ricardo Scott, F, 6-4/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 43.7 FG%)
Coach: Howie Dickenman (98-79, 6 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: New Britain, Conn. **Home court:** Detrick Gym (3,200). **Website:** www.ccsu.edu/athletics

3. St. Francis (N.Y.), National Rank: 198

Outlook: Fifth-year PF Clifford Strong and senior C Chris Sockwell anchor a frontcourt that will benefit from the addition of sophomore F Devon Neckles, who sat out last season to concentrate on academics. Junior F Patrice Thevenot is back after missing last season with a torn ACL, and senior SG Bronski Dockery is the top returning scorer (15.3 ppg). Maine transfer Tory Cavalieri, who will get plenty of minutes at the point, and Rider transfer Mike Wilson are battle tested and capable of running a fast-paced attack that emphasizes perimeter shooting.
Key players: Clifford Strong, F, 6-7, Sr. (12.8 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 50.2 FG%, 37.9 3PT%), Chris Sockwell, C, 6-8/Sr. (13 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.7 bpg 59.6 FG%).
Coach: Ron Ganulin (145-163, 11 years; 172-186 overall, 13 years).
Last league title: 2001.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Brooklyn Heights, N.Y. **Home court:** Pope P.E. Center (1,250). **Website:** www.stfranciscollege.edu

4. Quinnipiac, National Rank: 245

Outlook: Sophomore PG Rob Monroe, the NEC Newcomer of the Year last season, returns along with versatile junior G Kason Mims. Senior F Jeremy Bishop is the workhorse—he notched 13 double-doubles last season while averaging 11.1 points and 12.0 rebounds. Junior F Rashuan Banjo also is back. The only weakness is at center, where the team must replace leading scorer Bill Romano. Freshmen Adam Tancredi (6-8) and Jerry Fiefie (6-11) must fill the void. C.J. Vick, a 6-8 sophomore power forward, also will provide bulk.
Key players: Jeremy Bishop, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 12.0 rpg, 48.0 FG%), Kason Mims, G, 6-3/Jr. (12.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 50.0 FG%); Rob Monroe, G, 5-10/So. (13.0 ppg, 4.6 apg, 77.4 FT%, 38.0 3PT%).
Coach: Joe DeSantis (56-108, 6 years).
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Hamden, Conn. **Home court:** Kahn Court (1,500). **Website:** www.quinnipiacathletics.com

5. Sacred Heart, National Rank: 256

Outlook: Sophomore F/C Kibwe Trim, who's from Trinidad, averaged only 4.3 points in his first 20 games last season but turned it on down the stretch, averaging 13 points and 6.6 rebounds the last seven games. Sophomore 7-2 Mading Mading, from the Sudan, was hampered by knee problems but could complement Trim inside if he's healthy. The backcourt is deep with the return of top scorer junior Maurice Bailey, sophomore Tre Samuels and juniors Omar Wellington and Chris Assel. The Pioneers will look to run if given the chance but will be content to use their size in the post.
Key players: Maurice Bailey, G, 6-0/Jr. (18.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 44.2 FG%), Kibwe Trim, F, 6-10/So. (53.4 FT%).
Coach: Dave Bike (392-311, 24 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Fairfield, Conn. **Home court:** Pitt Center (2,100). **Website:** www.sacredheart.edu/athletics

6. Monmouth, National Rank: 258

Outlook: Without G Rahsaan Johnson, the Hawks are without their top scorer (19.2 ppg last season) and assist man from the past three seasons. Sophomore SG Dwayne Byfield (5.9 ppg) must fill the void. Freshman Tyler Azzarelli likely will see plenty of time at the point. G Chris Kenny, a 3-point threat, also joins the backcourt. The deliberate half-court offense includes F Jason Krayl (11.3 ppg), the top returning scorer and a rugged defender. Senior C Kevin Owens and sophomore 6-7 PF Blake Hamilton provide muscle inside with 6-9 sophomore Drexel transfer Pat Deveney.
Key players: Jason Krayl, F, 6-5/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 49 FG%), Kevin Owens, C, 6-10/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 56 FG%).
Coach: Dave Calloway (59-69, 5 yrs.; 0-1 NCAA Tourn.).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 2001.
Site: West Long Branch, N.J. **Home court:** Boyland Gym (2,500). **Website:** www.monmouth.edu

7. St. Francis (Pa.), National Rank: 270

Outlook: SG Darshan Luckey, who sat out last season to focus on academics, brings a versatile game to an already deep backcourt that also includes JC transfer Erick Wills at the point. The frontcourt must supply an inside presence to open things up outside. The problem might be solved by the addition of sophomore F/C Jason Osborne, a 6-7, 245-pound transfer from Dayton. Osborne won't be eligible until December. Fs Steveroy Daley and Rodney Gibson combined for almost 20 points a game last season and should complement Osborne on the wing.
Key players: Darshan Luckey, G, 6-4/Fr (RS).; Erick Wills, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/JC); Jason Osborne, F, 6-7/So. (transfer/Dayton).
Coach: Bobby Jones (25-57, 3 years).
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Loretto, Pa. **Home court:** Stokes Athletic Center (2,500). **Website:** www.francis.edu

8. Robert Morris, National Rank: 277

Outlook: The Colonials have no one back whose scoring average reached double figures. Coach Mark Schmidt couldn't press and run as much as he wanted last season, but this squad might be able to develop into a unit capable of generating a running game from pressure defense. The depth is at guard, where senior PG DaMarcus Ellis and sophomore Maurice Carter return. More consistency is needed from Carter, whose scoring tailed off last season. Sophomore G Duke Cooper, a 6-4 JC transfer, should add depth. Junior SF Aaron Thomas, 6-7, is the top returning scorer and will be counted on to improve.
Key players: Aaron Thomas, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg), Maurice Carter, G, 6-0/So. (8.2 ppg, 2.5 apg).
Coach: Mark Schmidt (12-18, 1 year).
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Moon Township, Pa. **Home court:** Sewall Center (3,056). **Website:** www.robert-morris.edu

9. Maryland-Baltimore County, National Rank: 292

Outlook: Survivor Island might be the theme as UMBC tries to reach the NEC Tournament again after its first 20-win season. The Mountaineers lost 35 points per game when NEC first-team F Peter Mulligan, starting F/C Will McClurkin and reserve G/F Ron Yates all transferred. Junior PF Eugene Young and sophomore F/C Andrew Feeley will have to mature quickly to offset those departures. Freshman SF John Zito should pack some offensive punch; he was second in scoring last season at St. Thomas More School in Connecticut. UMBC's strength lies in its experienced backcourt, with junior Kareem Washington, sophomore Rob Gogerty and senior Justin Wilson. UMBC traditionally plays an uptempo game but might have to emphasize patience on offense.
Key players: Kareem Washington, G, 6-3/Jr. (10 ppg, 49.5 FG%, 43.6 3PT%), Justin Wilson, G, 6-0/Sr. (57.2 FG%), Rob Gogerty, G, 6-1/So.
Coach: Tom Sullivan (92-107, 7 years; 246-230, 17 years overall).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** RAC Arena (4,000). **Website:** www.umbcretrievers.com

10. Long Island, National Rank: 304

Outlook: The revolving coaching door has spun wildly at LIU, but the keys to the offense remain in steady hands with fifth-year senior G Antawn Dobie. He has backcourt help from senior Maurice Yearwood and the addition of junior college transfer Roddrick Smith. First-year coach Jim Ferry will entrust his uptempo attack and much of his pressure defense to Dobie and Yearwood, both capable of handling the offense and scoring. The Blackbirds lack depth and size in the frontcourt but do have experience. The top returnee is senior SF JaJa Bey. LIU will need senior PF Dawan Gary (7.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg) to increase his production along with senior C Craig Taylor (8.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg).
Key players: Antawn Dobie, G, 6-0/Sr. (21.2 ppg, 5.2 apg, 45.1 FG%), JaJa Bey, F, 6-7/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 5.4 rpg).
Coach: Jim Ferry (1st year).
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Brooklyn, N.Y. **Home court:** Schwartz Athletic Center (1,000). **Website:** www.liu.edu

11. Fairleigh Dickinson, National Rank: 321

Outlook: The Knights lost their leading scorer and pivot man from a team that opened last season with 12 straight losses and closed it with five straight defeats. With the loss of James Felton's 20.5 points per game, the team will retool with an uptempo attack and look to fifth-year senior PF Matt Hammond as the go-to guy. The Knights lack overall size and a presence in the post. They'll try to compensate with depth at guard and on the wing. Junior PG Marcus Whitaker will run the attack and is aided by a veteran backcourt that includes Iman Mattox, Brandon Edwards and Mensah Peterson.
Key players: Matt Hammond, F, 6-8/Sr. (14.1 ppg, 6 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 52.7 FG%), Marcus Whitaker, G, 5-9/Jr. (3.8 apg, 77.4 FT%).
Coach: Tom Green (306-241,19 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Teaneck, N.J. **Home court:** Roghtman Center (5,000) **Website:** www.fdu.edu

12. Mount St. Mary's, National Rank: 322

Outlook: Jim Phelan begins his 49th year of coaching and passes the legendary Forrest "Phog" Allen for length of coaching career, and it could be a long season. The team lacks depth and proven offensive power in the frontcourt and likely will rely on a talented but inexperienced backcourt. More consistency and scoring will be needed from the post, which includes senior Angel Rivera and junior Nick Dodson, a 6-10 shot-blocking threat who transferred from Howard University. The Mount will use an uptempo attack and pressure defense with the addition of a pair of heralded freshmen: SG Rolando Thompson and PG Chris Sumner. Junior SG Jamion Christian is the leading returning scorer (11.3 ppg) and was the most improved player last season but might have to battle Thompson for minutes.
Key players: Rolando Thompson, G, 6-1/Fr., Pat Atangana, F, 6-6/Jr. (11 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 42.3 FG%).
Coach: Jim Phelan (819-508, 48 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Emmitsville, Md. **Home court:** Knott Arena (3,196). **Website:** www.mountathletics.com

Northeast Schedules

Central Conn. St.

N22-23 Mohegan Sun Cla.
D11-12 Phoenix Classic
D21 Brown
D28 Connecticut*
D31 at Rhode Island
J3 at Quinnipiac
J6 at Loyola (Md.)
J11 Wagner
J13 at Sacred Heart
J18 St. Francis (Pa.)
J20 Robert Morris
J25 at Fair. Dickinson
J27 at Monmouth
F1 at Long Island
F3 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F6 Mount St. Mary's
F8 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F13 at Wagner
F15 Sacred Heart
F17 Quinnipiac
F20 Long Island
F22 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F27 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
M1 at Mount St. Mary's
*at Hartford

Fairleigh Dickinson

N25 Army
N30 Morgan State
D2 at Loyola (Md.)
D7 at Delaware State
D11 St. Peter's
D14 at Minnesota
D21 at NC State
D30 Hartford
J4 at Monmouth
J7 at Army
J11 Long Island
J13 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J18 at Wagner
J20 at Sacred Heart
J25 Central Conn. St.
J27 Quinnipiac
F1 at UMBC
F3 at Mount St. Mary's
F6 Wagner
F8 Sacred Heart
F13 at Long Island
F15 St. Francis (N.Y.)
M1 Robert Morris

Long Island

N22 at Virginia
N26 at Hartford
N29 Binghamton
D1 at Delaware
D8 at Colgate
D11 at Albany
D14 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J4 at Northwestern
J11 at Fair. Dickinson
J13 Monmouth
J18 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
J20 at Mount St. Mary's
J25 Md.-Baltimore Co.
J27 Mount St. Mary's
F1 Central Conn. State
F3 at Quinnipiac
F6 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F8 at Robert Morris
F13 at Fair. Dickinson
F15 at Monmouth
F18 at St. Francis (N.Y.)

(Northeast continued)

F20 at Central Conn. St.
F22 Quinnipiac
F27 Sacred Heart
M1 Wagner

Md.-Baltimore Co.

N25 at Morgan State
D5 Mount St. Mary's
D10 at Loyola College
D13 at Villanova
D20 Santa Clara
D23 at Maryland
D29-30 State Farm Cl.
J7 at Princeton
J11 at Robert Morris
J13 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J18 Long Island
J20 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J25 at Long Island
J27 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F1 Fairleigh Dickinson
F3 Monmouth
F6 at Quinnipiac
F8 at Central Conn. St.
F10 at Mount St. Mary's
F13 St. Francis (Pa.)
F15 Robert Morris
F20 at Sacred Heart
F22 at Wagner
F27 Central Conn. St.
M1 Quinnipiac

Monmouth

N23 at Rider
N27 Drexel
D3 Princeton
D7 at Hofstra
D11 Seton Hall
D14 St. Peter's
D29 at Kansas State
D31 at Mo.-Kansas City
J4 Fairleigh Dickinson
J11 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J13 at Long Island
J18 Pennsylvania
J20 Wagner
J23 at Sacred Heart
J25 Quinnipiac
J27 Central Conn. State
F1 at Mount St. Mary's
F3 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F6 Sacred Heart
F8 at Wagner
F13 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F15 Long Island
F17 at Fair. Dickinson
F20 at Robert Morris
F22 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F27 Robert Morris
M1 St. Francis (Pa.)

Mount St. Mary's

N25 Delaware
D5 at UMBC
D7 at Duquesne
D14 Loyola (Md.)
D30 Navy
J5 at Texas
J7 at Baylor
J11 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J13 at Robert Morris
J18 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J20 Long Island
J25 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J27 at Long Island
F1 Monmouth
F3 Fairleigh Dickinson
F6 Cent. Conn. State
F8 at Quinnipiac
F11 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F13 Robert Morris
F15 St. Francis (Pa.)
F20 at Wagner
F22 at Sacred Heart
F27 Quinnipiac
M1 Central Conn. State

Quinnipiac

N23 at Connecticut
N26 Westfield (Mass.)
N30-D1 Hofstra Tour.
D18 at Dartmouth
D23 at Albany
D29 at La Salle
J3 Central Conn. State
J7 Holy Cross
J11 Sacred Heart
J13 at Wagner
J18 at Robert Morris
J20 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J25 at Monmouth
J27 at Fair. Dickinson
F1 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F3 Long Island
F6 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F8 Mount St. Mary's
F13 at Sacred Heart
F15 Wagner
F17 at Central Conn. St.
F20 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F22 at Long Island
F27 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
M1 at Mount St. Mary's

Robert Morris

N22 at Mo.-Kansas City
N26 at East. Michigan
D4 Carnegie Mellon
D14 at St. Francis (Pa.)
D18 at Md.-Eastern Shore
D21 at Albany
D29 Birm. Southern
J2 at Penn State
J4 at Pittsburgh
J7 at Bucknell
J11 Md.-Baltimore Co.
J13 Mount St. Mary's
J18 at Quinnipiac
J20 at Cent. Conn. State
J25 Sacred Heart
J27 Wagner
F1 at Sacred Heart
F3 at Wagner
F6 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F8 Long Island
F13 at Mount St. Mary's
F15 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F20 Monmouth
F22 Fairleigh Dickinson
F24 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F27 at Monmouth
M1 at Fair. Dickinson

Sacred Heart

N23 at Stony Brook
N25 Manhattan
D1 Army
D3 at Connecticut
D5 Yale
D20-22 San Juan S.O.
D31 at Vermont
J3 at Minnesota
J6 at Columbia
J8 Wagner
J11 at Quinnipiac
J13 Central Conn State
J20 Fairleigh Dickinson
J23 Monmouth
J25 at Robert Morris
J27 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F1 Robert Morris
F3 St. Francis (Pa.)
F6 at Monmouth
F8 at Fair. Dickinson
F13 Quinnipiac
F15 at Central Conn. St.
F20 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F22 Mount St. Mary's
F24 at Wagner
F27 at Long Island
M1 at St. Francis (N.Y.)

St. Francis (N.Y.)

N25 Hofstra
N27 at St. Peter's
D2 at Seton Hall
D7 at Howard
D11 at St. John's
D14 at Long Island
D27-28 FIU Tournament
J4 at Lehigh
J7 at Binghamton
J11 at Monmouth
J13 Fairleigh Dickinson
J18 at Mount St. Mary's
J20 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F1 Quinnipiac
F3 at Central Conn. St.
F6 at Robert Morris
F8 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F13 Monmouth
F15 at Fair. Dickinson
F18 Long Island
F20 at Quinnipiac
F22 Central Conn. State
F27 Wagner College
M1 Sacred Heart

St. Francis (Pa.)

N22 Howard
N27 at Pittsburgh
D1 VMI
D4 Youngstown State
D7 at Bucknell
D14 Robert Morris
D20 at Western Kentucky
D28 at Penn State
D30 Cornell
J4 at American
J11 Mount St. Mary's
J13 Md.-Baltimore Co.
J18 at Central Conn. St.
J20 at Quinnipiac
J25 Wagner
J27 Sacred Heart
F1 at Wagner
F3 at Sacred Heart
F6 Long Island
F8 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F13 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F15 at Mount St. Mary's
F20 Fairleigh Dickinson
F22 Monmouth
F24 at Robert Morris
F27 at Fair. Dickinson
M1 at Monmouth

Wagner

N19-29 Preseason NIT
N30 at VCU
D3 at Iona
D7 at Connecticut
D14 TBA
D18 at Middle Tennessee
D21 at Georgia Southern
D30 American
J2 Lehigh
J4 at Maryland
J8 at Sacred Heart
J11 at Central Conn. St.
J13 Quinnipiac
J18 Fairleigh Dickinson
J20 at Monmouth
J25 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J27 at Robert Morris
F1 St. Francis (Pa.)
F3 Robert Morris
F6 at Fair. Dickinson
F8 Monmouth
F13 Central Conn. State
F15 at Quinnipiac
F20 Mount St. Mary's
F22 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F24 Sacred Heart
F27 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
M1 Long Island

Rank 31

By John Holyoke, Bangor (Maine) Daily

America East

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Matt Turner, Boston University	5-8	160	Sr.
G	T.J. Sorrentine, Vermont	5-11	170	Jr.
F	Billy Collins, Boston University	6-7	200	Sr.
F	Taylor Coppenrath, Vermont	6-8	220	So.
C	Justin Rowe, Maine	7-0	235	Sr.

Player of the Year

T.J. Sorrentine, Vermont

Newcomer of the Year

Ludmil Hadjisotirov, G, Maine

Honor Roll

Best shooter: T.J. Sorrentine, Vermont
Best playmaker: T.J. Sorrentine, Vermont
Best dunker: Matt Turner, Boston U.
Best NBA prospect: Justin Rowe, Maine
Most likely to blossom: Rashad Bell, Boston U.
Best rebounder: Pierre Johnson, Hartford
Best defender: Derrick Jackson, Maine
Best game coach: Dennis Wolff, Boston U.
Most versatile: Billy Collins, Boston U.
Will take a charge: Kevin Fitzgerald, Boston U.

Team Standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Vermont	13	3	21	8
Boston University*	13	3	22	10
Hartford	10	6	14	18
New Hampshire	8	8	11	17
Maine	7	9	12	18
Binghamton	6	10	9	19
Albany	5	11	8	20
Northeastern	5	11	7	21
Stony Brook	5	11	6	22

*Lost to Cincinnati in NCAA West first round.

1. Boston University, National Rank: 114

Outlook: The Terriers absorbed the early loss of star G Matt Turner (shoulder) last season and wound up posting their first league title since 1996-97. This year, the dynamic Turner is back … and so is the rest of BU's talented starting lineup. G Chaz Carr emerged, and when he is paired with Turner, the Terriers might have the quickest backcourt in the league. PG Kevin Fitzgerald returns with the conference's best assist-to-turnover ratio, and he will play plenty. Billy Collins is a versatile threat inside and outside. The Terriers are patient and crisp in their halfcourt offense, and their veteran cast tends to make good decisions when it matters most.
Key players: Billy Collins, F, 6-7/Sr. (12 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 48.2 3PT%); Chaz Carr, G, 5-10/So. (13.5 ppg, 75.2 FT%); Matt Turner, G, 5-8/Sr. (17.5 ppg, 56.3 FG%, 50.0 3PT%, 75.0 FT% in six games).
Coach: Dennis Wolff (129-107, 8 years; 159-125 overall, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: 2002 (tied).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2001.
Site: Boston. **Home court:** Case Gymnasium (1,800). **Website:** www.bu.edu/athletics

2. Vermont, National Rank: 159

Outlook: As the Catamounts rolled to a 21-8 record last winter, they captured the imagination of fans in Burlington. The team's attendance swelled by 89 percent over the previous year. But after a 12-game winning streak, Vermont struggled to a 7-5 mark the rest of the way, including a semifinal conference tournament loss. Vermont returns America East Player of the Year T.J. Sorrentine, a shifty guard who led the league in scoring and 3-point field goals last season. Add sophomore F Taylor Coppenrath, the league's rookie of the year, and Matt Sheftic, who returns after sitting out a year because of a family crisis, and the Catamounts look poised to make another run.
Key player: Taylor Coppenrath, F, 6-8/So. (16.6 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 49.7 FG%,); T.J. Sorrentine, G, 5-11/Jr. (18.8 ppg, 39.3 3PT%, 83.8 FT%, 4 apg).
Coach: Tom Brennan (196-248, 16 years; 248-323 overall, 21 years).
Last league title: 2002 (tied).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Burlington, Vt. **Home court:** Patrick Gym (3,228). **Website:** www.uvmathletics.com

3. Hartford, National Rank: 182

Outlook: The Hawks learned how far they'd come last season when they nearly knocked off eventual champ Boston University in the league tourney semifinals. That performance may have been a surprise, but this season, they are expected to move into the league's upper echelon. The big reason: F Pierre Johnson, a third-team all-league pick last season. G Ryan Stys has established himself as one of the conference's top perimeter threats over the past two years. G Jerrell Parker, a transfer from Loyola-Chicago, is expected to fare well.
Key player: Pierre Johnson, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 7.2 rpg).
Coach: Larry Harrison (18-42, 2 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: West Hartford, Conn. **Home court:** Chase Family Arena (3,977).
Website: www.hartfordhawks.com

4. Maine, National Rank: 247

Outlook: The Black Bears have established themselves as one of the top teams in the league since John Giannini arrived as coach in 1996, but the Bears are back in the pack after last season's 12-18 record. However, don't be surprised if Maine is challenging for the league's automatic NCAA bid come March. NBA scouts began their pilgrimages to Orono a year ago to get a look at C Justin Rowe. Also returning are senior defensive stopper Derrick Jackson and senior F Clayton Brown. G Ludmil "Udo" Hadjisotirov, who transferred from Boston College, makes his debut for the Bears.
Key player: Justin Rowe, C, 7-0/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 4.03 bpg, 59.4 FG%).
Coach: John Giannini (91-85, 6 years; 259-123 overall, 13 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Orono, Maine. **Home court:** Harold Alfond Arena (5,712). **Website:** www.goblackbears.com

5. Northeastern, National Rank: 260

Outlook: Opposing coaches say the same thing every year: The Huskies' helter-skelter style and stable of talented players make them extremely tough to play. The Huskies like to get the ball out and run, even when they shouldn't. But they use that style to knock off teams with better records. JC transfers Cornelius Wright and Sylbrin Robinson were expected to emerge as stars last season, but injuries put them on the shelf. If they're healthy, the Huskies will benefit. Add Aaron Davis, who led the team in scoring (11.4 ppg) as a freshman, and Northeastern could contend.
Key player: Aaron Davis, G, 6-3/So. (11.4 ppg).
Coach: Ron Everhart (7-21, 1 year; 99-125 overall, 8 years).
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Boston. **Home court:** Cabot Gym (2,000).
Website: www.goNU.com

6. Binghamton, National Rank: 278

Outlook: The Bearcats made their D-I debut last season and finished sixth among the league's nine teams. Binghamton is not eligible for the league's automatic NCAA bid until 2004. The team is powered by a front line that includes Jeffrey St. Fort and C Nick Billings, who quickly became a force down low as a freshman. Billings blocked a school-record 80 shots from the middle of Binghamton's zone until a late-season knee injury slowed him.
Key player: Jeffrey St. Fort, F, 6-6/Sr. (12.9 ppg, 6.5 rpg).
Coach: Al Walker (23-33, 2 years; 165-204 overall, 14 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Binghamton, N.Y. **Home court:** West Gymnasium (3,000).
Website: http://athletics.binghamton.edu

7. Albany, National Rank: 288

Outlook: The Great Danes struggled through a tumultuous '01-02 season. Leading scorer E.J. Gallup left after nine games, and coach Will Brown took over for his former boss, Scott Beeten, on December 20. Albany finished 8-20 but went 7-13 under Brown. Brown received the job full time and Gallup returned to the team in August, setting the stage for a much smoother season. Earv Opong, a speeding 5-7 point guard, scored 8.2 ppg as a freshman and might be the catalyst for the Great Danes. Antione Johnson, the team's top returning scorer, also returns to the backcourt.
Key player: Antione Johnson, G, 6-1/Sr. (11.3 ppg).
Coach: Will Brown (7-13, 1 year).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Albany, N.Y. **Home court:** Recreation and Convocation Center (5,000).
Website: www.albany.edu/sports

8. Stony Brook, National Rank: 309

Outlook: Stony Brook struggled to a 6-22 record in its first season in the league. The biggest bright spot for the Seawolves: junior G D.J. Munir. He proved to be one of the toughest matchups in the league last season; his height (6-3) and unlimited shooting range combined to create defensive problems for opponents. Junior F Mike Konopka (9.6 ppg), sophomore C JonPaul Kobryn (8.7) and junior Jairus McCollum (8.0) will provide ample support.
Key player: D.J. Munir, G, 6-3/Jr. (17.2 ppg).
Coach: Nick Macarchuk (29-56, 3 years; 339-376, 24 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Stony Brook, N.Y. **Home court:** Indoor Sports Complex (5,226).
Website: www.goseawolves.org

9. New Hampshire, National Rank: 319

Outlook: The Wildcats might have two of the biggest voids to fill among America East teams: Austin Ganly and Chris Brown graduated, taking with them 28.9 points and 15.2 rebounds a game. G Marcus Bullock is expected to keep the Wildcats together early on. Junior F Allen Gould (7.9 ppg) is the only other returning player who averaged more than 4 points last season. Coach Phil Rowe is inventive; he relied on a five-in, five-out platoon system in his first season at UNH to mask a limited talent base.
Key player: Marcus Bulluck, G, 6-0/Jr. (10.3 ppg, 81 FT%).
Coach: Phil Rowe (21-63, 3 years; 201-212, 16 years).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Durham, N.H. **Home court:** Whittemore Center (7,200). **Website:** www.unhwildcats.com

America East Schedule

Albany
N22 at Siena
N26 Bucknell
N30 at Notre Dame
D9 at Army
D11 Long Island
D21 Robert Morris
D23 Quinnipiac
D28 at Syracuse
D30 at Lafayette
J2 Colgate
J4 at Maine
J8 Boston U.
J11 New Hampshire
J15 Vermont
J18 at Stony Brook
J21 at Binghamton
J25 Dartmouth
J29 at Hartford
F2 Northeastern
F5 at Boston University
F8 Maine
F14 Stony Brook
F16 at New Hampshire
F20 Binghamton
F22 Hartford
F26 at Northeastern
M2 at Vermont

Binghamton
N23 Lafayette
N26 Columbia
N29 at LIU-Brooklyn
D3 at Dartmouth
D6-7 Cyclone Challenge
D14 at Syracuse
D27 at Villanova
D30 George Washington
J2 at New Hampshire
J4 at Boston University
J7 St. Francis
J11 Stony Brook
J15 Hartford
J18 at Maine
J21 Albany
J25 New Hampshire
J29 at Northeastern
F2 Vermont
F6 at Hartford
F9 Boston University
F12 at Vermont
F15 Maine
F20 at Albany
F22 Northeastern
F26 at Stony Brook

Boston University
N18-29 Preseason NIT
N23 Columbia
N26 at Boston College
N30 at Dartmouth
D3 at Harvard
D5 at St. Joseph's
D11 George Washington
D13 Ohio
D21 at Cleveland State
D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl.
J4 Binghamton
J8 at Albany
J11 Vermont
J15 Stony Brook
J18 at Hartford
J22 at New Hampshire
J25 Northeastern
J29 at Maine
F5 Albany
F9 at Binghamton
F11 at Stony Brook
F15 Hartford
F22 at Vermont
F26 New Hampshire
M2 at Northeastern

Hartford
N26 Long Island
N30 Delaware State
D5 at Oklahoma State
D7 at Oklahoma
D11-12 Phoenix Classic
D21 Dartmouth
D23 at George Mason
D28 at Md.-East. Shore
D30 at Fair. Dickinson
J4 New Hampshire
J8 at Stony Brook
J11 Northeastern
J15 at Binghamton
J18 Boston University
J21 Concordia
J25 at Vermont
J29 Albany
J31 at Northeastern
F2 at Maine
F6 at Binghamton
F12 at New Hampshire
F15 at Boston University
F19 Stony Brook
F22 at Albany
F26 Vermont
M2 Maine

Maine
N29-D1 Tulane Tour.
D7 at Clemson
D9 at Morgan State
D14 at Rhode Island
D29-30 Dr Pepper Cl.
J4 Albany
J8 at New Hampshire
J15 at Northeastern
J18 Binghamton
J22 at Vermont
J26 at Stony Brook
J29 Boston University
F2 Hartford
F5 New Hampshire
F8 at Albany
F12 Northeastern
F15 at Binghamton
F19 at Boston University
F23 Stony Brook
F25 IUPU-Fort Wayne
M2 at Hartford

New Hampshire
N23 at Miami (Fla.)
N25 at Northwestern
N30 Liberty
D2 at Mt. St. Mary's
D6 at Colgate
D8 at Cornell
D11 at Wisconsin
D28-29 Poinsettia Classic
J2 Binghamton
J4 at Hartford
J8 Maine
J11 at Albany
J13 Brown
J15 at Dartmouth
J18 at Northeastern
J22 Boston University
J25 at Binghamton
J29 Vermont
F2 Stony Brook
F5 at Maine
F8 Northeastern
F12 Hartford
F16 Albany
F19 at Vermont
F26 at Boston University
M2 at Stony Brook

Northeastern
N22 Rhode Island
N30 Fordham
D2 at New Mexico
D4 at Northern Arizona
D14 at Penn State
D20-22 San Juan S.O.
D28 at Providence
J2 Loyola
J4 at Boston College
J8 at Vermont
J11 at Hartford
J15 Maine
J18 New Hampshire
J22 at Stony Brook
J25 at Boston University
J29 Binghamton
J31 Hartford
F2 at Albany
F5 Stony Brook
F8 at New Hampshire
F12 at Maine
F15 Vermont
F22 at Binghamton
F26 Albany
M2 Boston University

Stony Brook
N23 Sacred Heart
N26 at St. John's
N30 Harvard
D2 Rhode Island
D4 at Columbia
D12 Army
D15 at Boston College
D21 Hofstra
D23 Lehigh
J4 at Vermont
J8 Hartford
J11 Binghamton
J15 at Boston University
J18 Alabama
J22 Northeastern
J26 Maine
J28 Centenary
F2 at New Hampshire
F5 at Northeastern
F8 Vermont
F11 Boston University
F14 at Albany
F19 at Hartford
F23 at Maine
F26 Binghamton
M2 New Hampshire

Vermont
N22-23 Pepsi-Marist Cl.
N26 Dartmouth
N29 Utah State*
N30 Hawaii-Hilo*
D1 Drake*
D4 at Providence
D17 at Harvard
D19 at North Carolina
D22 Saint Michael's
D31 Sacred Heart
J2 Middlebury
J4 Stony Brook
J8 Northeastern
J11 at Boston University
J13 at Cornell
J15 at Albany
J22 Maine
J25 Hartford
J29 at New Hampshire
F2 at Binghamton
F8 at Stony Brook
F12 Binghamton
F15 at Northeastern
F19 at New Hampshire
F22 Boston University
F26 at Hartford
M2 Albany
*at Hilo, Hawaii.

By Elia Powers, The Sporting News

Independents

Team Records

Overall	W	L
Texas-Pan American	20	10
Centenary	14	13
Texas A&M Corpus-Christi	11	15
IUPU Fort Wayne	7	21
Lipscomb	6	21
Morris Brown	4	25
Savannah State	2	26

Texas-Pan American, National Rank: 215

Outlook: The Broncos are coming off a 20-10 season, the team's best record in more than 10 years. Hope for a repeat of that performance rests with four incoming junior college transfers. Gone are the team's top two offensive threats, Independent player of the year guard Mire Chatman and F/C Marcus Quinn. The team will have to replace almost 40 points per game in scoring and find new leaders in rebounds and blocked shots. Much will be expected of four incoming junior college transfers.
Key Player: Andrius Sakalys, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 51.3 FG%, 76.9 FT%).
Coach: Bob Hoffman (44-43, 3 years).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Edinburgh, Texas. **Home Court:** UTPA Field House (4,000). **Website:** www.panam.edu/athletics.

Centenary, National Rank: 283

Outlook: The Gents posted a winning record last season, going 14-13. It could have been better if not for a 2-11 road record. This season, away games will pose equally great challenges with a schedule that includes visits to Fresno State, Arkansas, Texas A&M, Texas Christian and Missouri in one five-game road trip. The team will rely on PG Andrew Wisniewski, who led the team in scoring, assists and 3-point shooting last season, to push the ball and run the show. Chemistry could be a concern with a bevy of incoming transfers joining a team with no seniors. As long as the Gents bear down on defense, they will be in contention.
Key player: Andrew Wisniewski, PG, 6-3/Jr. (19.6 ppg, 5.7 apg, 46.7 FG%, 43.8 3PT%, 76.4 FT%).
Coach: Kevin Johnson (33-50, 3 years).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Shreveport, La. **Home court:** Gold Dome (3,000). **Website:** www.centenary.edu/ath

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, National Rank: 287

Outlook: The Islanders must rely on their backcourt—with PG Brian Evans and streaky SG Travis Bailey—to fuel the offense. Evans can score and pass, and Bailey has tremendous athletic ability. Defense and outside shooting should be the team's strengths. Coaches gave quality minutes to their freshmen and sophomores last season, so what appears to be a young and inexperienced team is a young but fairly experienced bunch. Another .500 year is likely, with or without F Brian Hamilton, who was almost certain to transfer.
Key player: Brian Evans, PG, 6-1/Jr. (13.5 ppg, 4.5 apg, 40.9 FG%, 77.3 FT%).
Coach: Ronnie Arrow (39-42, 3 years; 153-135 overall, 10 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Corpus-Christi, Texas. **Home court:** Circle K Court (3,500). **Website:** www.tamucc.edu

Morris Brown, National Rank: 310

Outlook: The Wolverines' murderous schedule, which included road contests with Clemson, Tulsa and Boston College, was a major reason they finished 4-25 a year ago. A lighter load and less travel this season, plus the return of injured SG Anthony Adams and PF Akiem Claborn, should bolster the team. Though it graduated its leading scorer, the team returns two starters and a number of bench players who played significant minutes last season. Overall, the team is bigger, more experienced and more physical.
Key player: Anthony Adams, SG, 6-3/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 60.0 FG%), played in one game last season.
Coach: Derek Thompson (4-25, 1 year).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Atlanta. **Home court:** John H. Lewis (3,500).
Website: www.morrisbrown.edu

NCAA Division I provisional teams

IUPU-Fort Wayne

Outlook: Like many teams in their first D-I season, the Mastadons were outmuscled and outmatched last season. They must be more consistent to finish better than 7-21 at this level. It all starts with PG Terry Collins, who directs the high-octane offense. Because of a lack of an inside presence last year, the team relied heavily on outside shooting—especially 3s. More than 38 percent of the team's field-goal attempts were 3s, but they made 36 percent of them. This season, senior F Jeremy King (6-6, 205) should lead the team to a more balanced in-and-out game. Eight return from last season, but the No. 2 scorer, Nick Wise, is gone.
Key player: Terry Collins, PG, 6-0/So. (12.5 ppg, 40.8 FG%).
Coach: Doug Noll (25-60, 3 years).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Fort Wayne, Ind.
Home court: Hilliard Gates Sports Center (2,800).
Website: www.ipfw.edu/athletics

Lipscomb

Outlook: Lipscomb finished its first full D-I schedule 6-21, a dramatic dip from the 55-11 record of the previous two seasons. Still, Lipscomb gave coach Scott Sanderson a contract extension and is dedicated to building a winner in its last year of provisional status. Good shooters and the core of last year's squad return, but the Bisons still lack size and proven scorers. Last season, they used a balanced attack, with no one averaging more than 11 points or 27 minutes a game. Sanderson plans to start true freshman Craig Schoen at point guard.
Key player: Jason Jackson, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 46.9 FG%).
Coach: Scott Sanderson (61-32, 3 years; 145-57 overall, 6 years).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Nashville, Tenn. **Home court:** Allen Arena (5,028). **Website:** www.lipscombsports.com.

Savannah State

Outlook: The program is in disarray as it makes its move to D-I. The team finished 2-26 last season, lost its top scorer, fired its coach and didn't hire a replacement until August 15. New coach Edward Daniels Jr. inherits a decent frontcourt, which is led by C Brian Fisher. It's likely the team will slow down the offense, because last year's run-and-gun style resulted in sloppy play. The team returns most of last year's players. The problem: It was shorthanded then, and signing recruits has been hard.
Key player: Brian Fisher, C, 6-9/Sr. (4.4 rpg).
Coach: Edward Daniels Jr. (1st year).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Savannah, Ga. **Home court:** Tiger Arena (5,600).
Website: www.savstate.edu

Note: Birmingham-Southern (page 153) has provisional status but is playing a full Big South schedule.

Schedule

Centenary

N21-24 Top of World Cl.
N26 at La.-Monroe
N30 Northwestern State
D3 at Stephen F. Austin
D7 La.-Monroe
D9 at West. Michigan
D17 Jarvis Christian
D20 at Fresno State
D28 at Arkansas
J2 at Texas A&M
J4 at Texas Christian
J7 at Missouri
J11 Texas-Pan Am.
J18 Texas A&M-C.C.
J22 at Savannah State
J25 Lipscomb
J28 Texas College
F1 Arkansas Baptist
F4 at Southern
F8 at Lipscomb
F12 IUPU-Ft. Wayne
F15 Savannah State
F18 at IUPU-Ft. Wayne
F22 at Texas A&M-C.C.
F24 at Texas-Pan Am.

IUPU-Ft. Wayne

N22 Butler
N26 at Oakland
N30 Eastern Kentucky
D2 at Lipscomb
D6 at New Mexico
D10 Aquinas
D12 at Wyoming
D14 at Nebraska
D20 Oregon State
D23 Tri-State
D28 at UC Irvine
D30 at San Diego State
J2 at UNLV
J7 IUPUI
J11 at Utah
J14 at Morehead State
J21 at Chicago State
J25 Loyola (Ill.)
J28 at Middle Tennessee
F1 at Texas-Pan Am.
F3 at Texas A&M-C.C.
F8 Youngstown State
F12 at Centenary
F15 at Illinois-Chicago
F18 Centenary
F20 Chicago State
F22 Wright State
F25 at Maine

Lipscomb

N23-24 Fla. Int'l Tour.
N26 Milligan
N30 at Troy State
D2 IUPU-Fort Wayne
D5 Tennessee State
D7 Tennessee-Martin
D12 Troy State
D15 New Orleans
D20 at Kansas State
D22 at Pepperdine
D29-30 Dr Pepper Cl.
J4 Sacramento State
J7 at Nebraska
J11 at Savannah State
J13 at Stetson
J16 Campbell
J21 Morris Brown
J25 at Centenary
J28 Fisk
F1 Savannah State
F5 at IUPUI
F8 Centenary
F10 Jacksonville State
F13 at Campbell
F17 Stetson
F20 at Jacksonville St.

Morris Brown

N23-24 Fla. Int'l Tour.
N30 at USC
D2 at Cal St. Fullerton
D4 Eastern Kentucky
D6-7 Winthrop Tour.
D10 Mercer
D14 Alabama A&M
D18 Tennessee State
D23 at Rutgers
J4 at Tulane
J7 Florida A&M
J11 at Clemson
J16 at Clark Atlanta
J18 Savannah State
J21 at Lipscomb
J23 at Tennessee State
J29 at East. Kentucky
F5 at Clark
F7 Bethune-Cookman
F10 at Florida A&M
F13 at Mercer
F19 at Alabama A&M
F24 at Savannah State
F26 at Beth.-Cookman
M3 at Southern

Savannah State

N22 Fort Valley State
N24 at Florida State
N27 Jacksonville
N30 at Miami
D4 Georgia Southern
D9-10 at Jacksonville
D15 Iowa State
D20 Tulane
D30 at Ga.Southern
J2 Mercer
J4 Texas A&M
J8 at Fort Valley St.
J11 Lipscomb
J14 at Air Force
J16 at New Mexico
J18 at Morris Brown
J25 Birm. Southern
J28 Jacksonville State
F1 at Lipscomb
F3 at Jacksonville St.
F8 at Texas A&M-C.C.
F10 Texas Pan Am
F15 at Jacksonville
F17 at Mercer
F19 Texas Pan Am
F24 Morris Brown
F27 at Birm.-Southern

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

N22-24 Tipoff Tour.
N27 Trinity
N30 at Lamar
D3 Loyola of Chicago
D7 Morehead State
D14 at LSU
D17 Howard Payne
D19 at UAB
D27-28 Islander Classic
J4 at Savannah State
J6 at Florida State
J14 Sacramento State
J18 a Centenary
J20 at Arkansas State
J25 Texas-Pan Am
J27 at Oakland
F1 at Sam Houston St.
F3 IUPUI-Fort Wayne
F8 Savannah State
F11 at Prairie View A&M
F15 at Texas-Pan Am.
F18 at Texas-El Paso
F22 Centenary
F26 at New Orleans
M1 Binghamton

Texas-Pan American

N22-23 South Padre Trn.
N26 Concordia
N28 Miss. Valley State
N30-D1 Hofstra Tour.
D5 at Air Force
D7 at Saint Louis
D11 at Kansas State
D16 Schreiner
D19 at Southern
D21 at Lamar
D27-30 Rainbow Classic
J4 at Baylor
J8 Rice
J11 at Centenary
J13 at Texas Southern
J18 at New Mexico St.
J22 Southern
J25 at Texas A&M-C.C.
F1 IUPU-Fort Wayne
F4 SW Assem. of God
F8 Central Baptist
F10 Savannah State
F15 Texas A&M-C.C.
F19 at Savannah State
F24 Centenary
M1 Morris Brown

2002-03 In-season tournaments

Date	Tournament (site)	Teams (*Denotes host team)
November 15-16	**NABC Classic** (Madison, Wis.)	Wisconsin* vs. Eastern Washington, Northern Illinois vs. Winthrop.
November 18-29	**Preseason NIT**	November 18: Boston at Stanford, St. Peter's at Xavier, Eastern Illinois at Boise State, Penn State at North Carolina, Columbia at Rutgers. November 19: Louisiana Tech at Florida, Wagner at UNC Greensboro, Holy Cross at Kansas. Second round, November 20-22: at campus sites. Championship rounds, November 27-29: at Madison Square Garden, New York.
November 17-26	**Guardians Classic**	Opening rounds, November 17-18: At Notre Dame—Notre Dame vs. Belmont, Brown vs. IUPUI. At Creighton—Creighton vs. Texas-Arlington, Furman vs. Alabama State. Championship rounds, November 25-26: Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Mo.
November 21-24	**Top of the World Classic** (Fairbanks, Alaska)	Alaska-Fairbanks* vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, Centenary vs. Nebraska, Ball State vs. Jacksonville State, UC Santa Barbara vs. Weber State.
November 22-23	**Blue & Gold Classic** (Milwaukee)	Marquette* vs. Coppin State, Idaho State vs. Texas-San Antonio.
November 22-23	**Mohegan Sun Classic** (New Britain, Conn.)	Central Connecticut State* vs. St. Peter's, High Point vs. Northern Arizona.
November 22-23	**Pepsi-Marist Classic** (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)	Marist*, Colgate, Eastern Michigan, Vermont.
November 22-23	**Sooner Invitational** (Norman, Okla.)	Oklahoma* vs. Western Michigan, UC Irvine vs. Princeton.
November 22-23	**South Padre Classic** (South Padre Island, Texas)	Texas-Pan American*, Kent State, New Mexico State, Tulsa.
November 22-24	**Hispanic College Fund Classic** (Baton Rouge, La.)	LSU* vs. Nicholls State, South Alabama vs. Southern.
November 22-24	**Tipoff Tournament** (Honolulu)	Hawaii* vs. Arkansas-Little Rock, Cal State Fullerton vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.
November 23-24	**Florida International Tournament** (Miami)	Florida International* vs. Morris Brown, Iona vs. Lipscomb.
November 23-24	**Maine Tipoff Tournament** (Orono, Maine)	Maine*, Georgia Southern, John Jay College, Maine-Fort Kent.
November 23, 25	**Battle of Baltimore** (Baltimore)	Loyola (Md.), Morgan State*, Towson, Maryland-Baltimore County.
November 24-25	**John Thompson Foundation Challenge** (Eugene, Ore.)	Oregon* vs. Grambling State, Cal State Northridge vs. Jacksonville.
November 25-27	**Maui Invitational** (Lahaina, Hawaii)	Chaminade* vs. Virginia, Massachusetts vs. Indiana, Arizona State vs. Kentucky, Utah vs. Gonzaga.
November 27-30	**Great Alaska Shootout** (Anchorage)	Alaska-Anchorage* vs. Oklahoma State, College of Charleston vs. Wyoming, Michigan State vs. Montana, Loyola Marymount vs. Villanova.
November 29-30	**Auerbach Classic** (Washington, D.C.)	George Washington* vs. Bucknell, Columbia vs. Mount St. Mary's.
November 29-30	**McCaffrey Classic** (Fresno, Cailf.)	Fresno State* vs. Idaho State, St. Mary's vs. Sam Houston State.
Nov. 29-Dec. 1	**Tulane Tournament** (New Orleans)	Tulane*, Central Florida, Indiana State, IUPUI, Maine, Nicholls State, Southeast Missouri State, Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
Nov. 30-Dec. 1	**Hofstra Holiday Tournament** (Hempstead, N.Y.)	Hofstra* vs. Lehigh, Quinnipiac vs. Texas-Pan American.
December 6-7	**Boilermaker Invitational** (West Lafayette, Ind.)	Purdue* vs. Middle Tennessee, IUPUI vs. San Diego.
December 6-7	**Cyclone Challenge** (Ames, Iowa)	Iowa State*, Binghamton, Denver, Western Illinois.
December 6-7	**Hawkeye Challenge** (Iowa City, Iowa)	Iowa* vs. Montana State, Jacksonville vs. Southern Miss.
December 6-7	**Pizza Hut Classic** (Springfield, Mo.)	Southwest Missouri State* vs. Florida International, Samford vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
December 6-7	**Winthrop Shootout** (Rock Hill, S.C.)	Winthrop* vs. Morris Brown, North Texas vs. Weber State.
December 7-8	**BB+T Classic** (Washington, D.C.)	George Washington* vs. Texas, Maryland vs. Notre Dame.
December 11-12	**Phoenix Classic** (Hartford, Conn.)	Central Connecticut State vs. Hartford, Holy Cross vs. Yale.
December 16-17	**Stanford Invitational** (Palo Alto, Calif.)	Stanford* vs. Montana, Pepperdine vs. Richmond.
December 17-18	**Billy Minardi Classic** (Louisville, Ky.)	Louisville* vs. Eastern Kentucky, Manhattan vs. Wright State.
December 20-21	**Golden Bear Classic** (Berkeley, Calif.)	California*, Detroit, Grambling State, Louisiana-Lafayette.

December 20-21	**Hawaii Festival** (Honolulu)	Hawaii* vs. Eastern Illinois, Cal Poly vs. Miami of Ohio.
December 20-22	**San Juan Shootout** (San Juan, P.R.)	Puerto Rico-Mayaguez*, Auburn, Denver, Duquesne, James Madison, Northeastern, Sacred Heart, Troy State.
December 27-28	**azcentral.com Classic** (Tempe, Ariz.)	Arizona State* vs. Bucknell, UC Santa Barbara vs. Nebraska.
December 27-28	**Cable Car Classic** (Santa Clara, Cailf.)	Santa Clara* vs. Mississippi Valley State, Princeton vs. Texas A&M.
December 27-28	**ECAC Holiday Festival** (New York)	St. John's* vs. Manhattan, Iona vs. North Carolina.
December 27-28	**Florida International Tourament** (Miami)	Florida International* vs. St. Francis (N.Y.), Duquesne vs. Radford.
December 27-28	**Gossner Foods Classic** (Logan, Utah)	Utah State* vs. Arkansas State, Idaho State vs. Missouri-Kansas City.
December 27-28	**Islander Classic** (Corpus Christi, Texas)	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi* vs. Morgan State, Oakland vs. Texas Southern.
December 27-28	**Oneida Classic** (Green Bay, Wis.)	Wisconsin-Green Bay* vs. Austin Peay, Delaware vs. Eastern Washington.
December 27-28	**SunClassic** (El Paso, Texas)	UTEP* vs. Columbia, Air Force vs. UAB.
December 27-30	**Rainbow Classic** (Honolulu)	Hawaii*, Bradley, Butler, Texas-Pan American, Tennessee Tech, Western Kentucky.
December 28-29	**Lobo Invitational** (Albuquerque, N.M.)	New Mexico* vs. Portland State, Arkansas-Little Rock vs. Pepperdine.
December 28-29	**Poinsettia Holiday Classic** (Greenville, S.C.)	Furman* vs. New Hampshire, Dartmouth vs. Stetson.
December 28-29	**South Florida Tournament** (Tampa)	South Florida* vs. Long Island, Belmont vs. East Tennessee State.
December 28-29	**Spider Invitational** (Richmond, Va.)	Richmond* vs. Harvard, Norfolk State vs. VMI.
December 28-30	**Fiesta Bowl Classic** (Tucson, Ariz.)	Arizona* vs. Davidson, Boston University vs. Florida State.
December 29-30	**Big R Classic** (Bozeman, Mont.)	Montana State*, Loyola Marymount, Siena, South Carolina State.
December 29-30	**Dr. Pepper Classic** (Chattanooga, Tenn.)	Chattanooga* vs. Lipscomb, Maine vs. Weber State.
December 29-30	**State Farm Classic** (Charleston, S.C.)	College of Charleston* vs. Maryland-Baltimore County, Howard vs. Oral Roberts.
February 22, 2003	**Bracket Buster Saturday**	Home teams: Creighton, Gonzaga, Illinois-Chicago, Kent State, Louisiana Tech, Marshall, Southern Illinois, Western Kentucky, UC Santa Barbara. Road teams: Ball State, Bowling Green, Detroit, Fresno State, Hawaii, Illinois State, Northern Iowa, Tulsa, Wisconsin-Milwaukee. (Matchups to be decided about three weeks prior to the event. The only predetermined matchup is Tulsa at Gonzaga.)

2002 NCAA Tournament (Regional seeds in parenthesis)

CHAMPIONSHIP
Maryland 64, Indiana 52

NATIONAL SEMIFINALS
Maryland 97, Kansas 88
Indiana 73, Oklahoma 64

WEST REGION
Final
(2) Oklahoma 81, (12) Missouri 75
Semifinals
(12) Missouri 82, (8) UCLA 73
(2) Oklahoma 88, (3) Arizona 67
Second round
(8) UCLA 105, (1) Cincinnati 101
(12) Missouri 83, (4) Ohio State 67
(3) Arizona 68, (11) Wyoming 60
(2) Oklahoma 78, (7) Xavier 65
First round
(1) Cincinnati 90, (16) Boston University 52
(8) UCLA 80, (9) Mississippi 58
(12) Missouri 93, (5) Miami (Fla.) 80
(4) Ohio State 69, (13) Davidson 64
(11) Wyoming 73, (6) Gonzaga 66
(3) Arizona 86, (14) UC Santa Barbara 81
(7) Xavier 70, (10) Hawaii 58
(2) Oklahoma 71, (15) Illinois-Chicago 63

SOUTH REGION
Finals
(5) Indiana 81, (10) Kent State 69
Semifinals
(5) Indiana 74, (1) Duke 73
(10) Kent State 78, (3) Pittsburgh 73
Second round
(1) Duke 84, (8) Notre Dame 77
(5) Indiana 76, (13) UNC Wilmington 67
(3) Pittsburgh 63, (6) California 50
(10) Kent State 71, (2) Alabama 58
First round
(1) Duke 84, (16) Winthrop 37
(8) Notre Dame 82, (9) Charlotte 63
(5) Indiana 75, (12) Utah 56
(13) UNC Wilmington 93, (4) Southern California 89
(6) California 82, (11) Pennsylvania 75
(3) Pittsburgh 71, (14) Central Conn. St. 54
(10) Kent State 69, (7) Oklahoma State 61
(2) Alabama 86, (15) Florida Atlantic 78

MIDWEST REGION
Final
(1) Kansas 104, (2) Oregon 86
Semifinals
(1) Kansas 73, (4) Illinois 69
(2) Oregon 72, (6) Texas 70
Second round
(1) Kansas 86, (8) Stanford 63
(4) Illinois 72, (12) Creighton 60
(6) Texas 68, (3) Mississippi State 64
(2) Oregon 92, (7) Wake Forest 87
First round
(1) Kansas 70, (16) Holy Cross 59
(8) Stanford 84, (9) Western Kentucky 68
(12) Creighton 83, (5) Florida 82
(4) Illinois 93, (13) San Diego State 64
(6) Texas 70, (11) Boston College 57
(3) Mississippi State 70, (14) McNeese St. 58
(7) Wake Forest 83, (10) Pepperdine 74
(2) Oregon 81, (15) Montana 62

EAST REGION
Final
(1) Maryland 90, (2) Connecticut 82
Semifinals
(1) Maryland 78, (4) Kentucky 68
(2) Connecticut 71, (11) Southern Illinois 59
Second round
(1) Maryland 87, (8) Wisconsin 57
(4) Kentucky 87, (12) Tulsa 82
(11) Southern Illinois 77, (3) Georgia 75
(2) Connecticut 77, (7) NC State 74
First round
(1) Maryland 85, (16) Siena 70
(8) Wisconsin 80, (9) St. John's 70
(12) Tulsa 71, (5) Marquette 69
(4) Kentucky 83, (13) Valparaiso 68
(11) Southern Illinois 76, (6) Texas Tech 68
(3) Georgia 85, (14) Murray State 68
(7) NC State 69, (10) Michigan State 58
(2) Connecticut 78, (15) Hampton 67

Opening round
Siena 81, Alcorn State 77

2003 NCAA Tournament sites

Selection Sunday
Sunday, March 16

Opening round
Tuesday, March 18
Dayton, Ohio

First and second rounds
March 20 and 22
(Thursday/Saturday)
Midwest
Ford Center, Oklahoma City
RCA Dome, Indianapolis
West
Spokane Arena, Spokane, Wash.
Huntsman Center, Salt Lake City

March 21 and 23
(Friday/Sunday)
East
Ice Palace Arena, Tampa
Fleet Center, Boston
South
Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center, Birmingham, Ala.
Gaylord Entertainment Center, Nashville

Regional sessions
March 27 and 29
(Thursday/Saturday)
Midwest
Metrodome, Minneapolis
West
Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim, Calif.

March 28 and 30
(Friday/Sunday)
East
Pepsi Arena, Albany, N.Y.
South
Alamodome, San Antonio

Final Four
April 5 and 7
(Saturday/Monday)
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans

Future Final Four sites

2004
Alamodome
San Antonio
April 3 and 5

2005
Edward Jones Dome
St. Louis
April 2 and 4

2006
RCA Dome
Indianapolis
April 1 and 3

2007
Georgia Dome
Atlanta
March 31 and April 2

Conference tournament schedule

League	Dates	Site
America East	March 9-10, 15	Boston%
Atlantic Coast	March 13-16	Greensboro, N.C.
Atlantic Sun	March 5-8	Atlanta
Atlantic 10	March 10, 13-15	Dayton, Ohio@
Big East	March 12-15	New York
Big Sky	March 8, 11-12	TBD+
Big South	March 4, 7-8	Lynchburg, Va.@
Big Ten	March 13-16	Chicago
Big 12	March 13-16	Dallas
Big West	March 13-15	Anaheim, Calif.
Colonial	March 7-10	Richmond, Va.
Conference USA	March 12-15	Louisville, Ky.
Horizon	March 4, 7-8 and 11	Campus sites*
Metro Atlantic	March 7-10	Trenton, N.J.
Mid-American	March 10, 13-15	Cleveland@
Mid-Continent	March 9-11	Kansas City, Mo.
Mid-Eastern	March 10-15	Richmond, Va.
Missouri Valley	March 7-10	St. Louis
Mountain West	March 13-15	Las Vegas
Northeast	March 8-9, 12	Staten Island, N.Y.%
Ohio Valley	March 4-8	Nashville@
Pacific-10	March 13-15	Los Angeles
Patriot	March 8-9, 15	Upper Marlboro, Md.%
Southeastern	March 13-16	New Orleans
Southern	March 5-8	Charleston, S.C.
Southland	March 10, 12 and 14	Campus sites
Southwestern	March 13-15	Birmingham, Ala.@
Sun Belt	March 6-11	Bowling Green, Ky.
West Coast	March 7-10	San Diego
Western Athletic	March 11-15	Tulsa, Okla.

%Final at home court of highest remaining seed.
@First-round games at campus sites.
+First-round games at higher-seeded teams. Semifinals and finals at regular-season champion.
*Final at home court of highest remaining seed or at Wisconsin-Milwaukee if the Panthers advance to the finals.
NOTE: The Ivy League does not hold a conference tournament. Its automatic NCAA Tournament bid goes to its regular-season champion.

Where TSN's top 20 high school seniors are bound

Rk. Name	Pos.	City/H.S.	College/NBA
1. **Amare Stoudamire**	C	Orlando/Cypress Creek	NBA
2. **Carmelo Anthony**	SF	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	Syracuse
3. **Lenny Cooke**	SF	Old Tappan, N.J./Northern Valley Reg'l	NBA draft entrant
4. **Raymond Felton**	PG	Latta, S.C./Latta	North Carolina
5. **Shavlik Randolph**	SF	Raleigh, N.C./Broughton	Duke
6. **Shelden Williams**	PF	Midwest City, Okla./Midwest City	Duke
7. **Paul Davis**	PF	Rochester, Mich./Rochester	Michigan State
8. **Rashad McCants**	SF	New Hampton, N.H./New Hampton School	North Carolina
9. **Anthony Roberson**	PG	Saginaw, Mich./Saginaw	Florida
10. **Bracey Wright**	SG	The Colony, Texas/The Colony	Indiana
11. **Sean May**	PF	Bloomington, Ind./Bloomington South	North Carolina
12. **J.J. Redick**	SG	Roanoke, Va./Cave Spring	Duke
13. **Chris Bosh**	PF	Dallas/Lincoln	Georgia Tech
14. **Evan Burns**	SF	Los Angeles/Fairfax	UCLA
15. **Sani Ibrahim**	C	Winchendon, Mass./Winchendon School	Coll. of S. Idaho
16. **DeAngelo Collins**	PF	Inglewood, Calif./Inglewood	NBA draft entrant
17. **Jason Fraser**	C	Amityville, N.Y./Amityville	Villanova
18. **Torin Francis**	PF/C	Marion, Mass./Tabor Academy	Notre Dame
19. **Dee Brown**	PG	Maywood, Ill./Proviso East	Illinois
20. **Daniel Horton**	PG	Cedar Hill, Texas/Cedar Hill	Michigan

Prime prospects

The Sporting News **asked Rivals.com recruiting analyst Mike Sullivan to break down the 2003 senior class into the best prospects by position and to share his list of the top 100 seniors. Analysts Russ Blake, Denny Conroy and Tim Watts helped compile the positional rankings as well as the lists of up-and-coming juniors and sophomores.**

Top 100 overall

Rk. Name	Pos.	Ht.	School/City
1. LeBron James	SG	6-6	St. Vincent-St. Mary/Akron, Ohio
2. Luol Deng	SF	6-8	Blair Academy/Blairstown, N.J.
3. Charlie Villanueva	SF	6-9	Blair Academy/Blairstown, N.J.
4. James Lang	C	6-11	Central Park Christian/Birmingham, Ala.
5. Brian Butch	C	7-0	Appleton West/Appleton, Wis.
6. Kris Humphries	PF	6-8	Hopkins/Minnetonka, Minn.
7. Kendrick Perkins	C	6-10	Ozen/Beaumont, Texas
8. Ndudi Ebi	C	6-10	Westbury Christian/Houston
9. Ivan Harris	PF	6-8	Springfield South/Springfield, Ohio
10. Shannon Brown	PG	6-4	Proviso East/Maywood, Ill.
11. Leon Powe	PF	6-8	Oakland Tech/Oakland
12. Andrew Lavender	PG	5-7	Brookhaven/Columbus, Ohio
13. Mike Jones	SG	6-3	Thayer Academy/Braintree, Mass.
14. Trevor Ariza	PF	6-8	Westchester/Los Angeles
15. Chris Paul	PG	6-0	West Forsyth/Winston-Salem, N.C.
16. Dion Harris	SG	6-4	Redford/Detroit
17. Olu Famutimi	SG	6-5	Northwestern/Flint, Mich.
18. Von Wafer	SF	6-5	Pineview/Lisbon, La.
19. Sean Banks	SF	6-7	Bergen Catholic/Oradell, N.J.
20. Chris Taft	C	6-9	Xaverian/Brooklyn, N.Y.
21. David Padgett	C	6-11	Reno/Reno, Nev.
22. Ekene Ibekwe	PF	6-9	Carson/Carson, Calif.
23. Brandon Bass	PF	6-7	Capitol/Baton Rouge, La.
24. Wesley Green	C	6-9	Eustis/Eustis, Fla.
25. Marquis Kately	SF	6-5	Maine Central Instit./Pittsfield, Maine
26. Mohamed Abukar	PF	6-9	Rancho Bernardo/San Diego
27. Terrence Roberts	PF	6-8	St. Anthony/Jersey City, N.J.
28. Demetris Nichols	SF	6-7	St. Andrews/Barrington, R.I.
29. Mustafa Shakur	PG	6-3	Friends' Central/Wynnewood, Pa.
30. Travis Outlaw	SF	6-10	Starkville/Starkville, Miss.
31. Brandon Cotton	PG	6-0	St. Martin DePorres/Detroit
32. Richard McBride	SG	6-3	Lanphier/Springfield, Ill.
33. Brandon Foust	SF	6-6	Brookhaven/Columbus, Ohio
34. Corey Gibbs	PF	6-8	Redan/Stone Mountain, Ga.
35. Gary Ervin	PG	6-0	St. Thomas More/Oakdale, Conn.
36. Marcus Williams	PG	6-2	Crenshaw/Los Angeles
37. Ryan Appleby	PG	6-2	Stanwood/Stanwood, Wash.
38. J.R. Giddens	SF	6-5	John Marshall School/Oklahoma City

Shannon Brown, the No. 10 senior, averaged 24 points, five assists and three steals for Proviso East last season.

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Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	School/City
39.	Chris Richard	PF	6-8	Kathleen/Lakeland, Fla.
40.	Linas Kleiza	PF	6-7	Montrose Christian/Rockville, Md.
41.	Lee Humphrey	SG	6-3	Maryville/Maryville, Tenn.
42.	Will Blaylock	PG	5-11	East Boston/Boston
43.	Ayinde Ubaka	PG	6-3	Oakland/Oakland
44.	Quincy Douby	SG	6-3	St. Thomas More/Montville, Conn.
45.	Thomas Gardner	SG	6-4	Wilson/Portland, Ore.
46.	Brandon Jenkins	PG	6-4	Southeastern/Detroit
47.	Justin Benson	PF	6-6	Gulf Shores Academy/Houston
48.	Keith Blanks	PF	6-6	National Christian/Fort Washington, Md.
49.	Tyler Smith	PG	6-2	Frederick Douglas/Baltimore
50.	Regis Koundjia	SF	6-7	Laurinburg Institute/Laurinburg, N.C.
51.	Gary Forbes	SF	6-5	Banneker/Brooklyn, N.Y.
52.	Jackie Butler	C	6-10	McComb/McComb, Miss.
53.	Colin Falls	SG	6-3	Loyola Academy/Wilmette, Ill.
54.	Ramel Bradley	SG	6-2	Park West/New York City
55.	Walter Waters	C	6-9	Southeastern/Detroit
56.	Major Wingate	C	6-10	Wilson/Florence, S.C.
57.	Martin Iti	C	6-11	The Winchendon School/Winchendon, Mass.
58.	J.R. Reynolds	SG	6-3	Roanoke Catholic/Roanoke, Va.
60.	Will Sheridan	PF	6-8	Sanford/Hockessin, Del.
61.	Renaldo Balkman	SF	6-6	IMG Academies/Bradenton, Fla.
62.	Brandon Wallace	PF	6-8	Silver Bluff/Aiken, S.C.
63.	Sammy Mejia	SF	6-5	Storm King/Cornwall on Hudson, N.Y.
64.	Ronnie Brewer	SG	6-5	Fayetteville/Fayetteville, Ark.
65.	Taurean Minor	PG	5-11	B.T. Washington/Houston
66.	J.R. Pinnock	SG	6-5	Coastal Christian/Virginia Beach, Va.
67.	Hassan Fofana	C	6-11	Holy Name/Worcester, Mass.
68.	Daon Merritt	PG	5-10	St. Raymond's/Bronx, N.Y.
69.	Brian Randle	SF	6-8	Notre Dame/Peoria, Ill.
70.	Tyrone Nelson	C	6-10	Hempstead/Hempstead, Texas
71.	Cartier Martin	SF	6-7	Nimitz/Aldine, Texas
72.	Gerald Brown	SG	6-3	Frederick Douglas/Baltimore
73.	Jamual Warren	PG	6-3	Holyoke/Holyoke, Mass.
74.	Dan Coleman	PF	6-9	Hopkins/Minnetonka, Minn.
75.	Bobby Perry	SF	6-6	Hillsdale/Durham, N.C.
76.	Jeremy Ingram	PG	6-3	Kingston/Kingston, N.C.
77.	Shagari Alleyne	C	7-3	Rice/New York City
78.	Darryl Watkins	C	6-11	Paterson Catholic/Paterson, N.J.
79.	Karron Clarke	SF	6-6	The Winchendon School/Winchendon, Mass.
80.	Jermario Davidson	PF	6-10	Stone Mountain/Stone Mountain, Ga.
81.	Lamont Hamilton	C	6-9	Milford Academy/Milford, Conn.
82.	Aaron Brooks	PG	6-0	Franklin/Seattle
83.	Michael Nardi	PG	6-2	St. Patrick/Elizabeth, N.J.
84.	Ray George	SG	6-4	Coastal Christian/Decatur, Ga.
85.	Will Bowers	C	6-10	Archbishop Spalding/Severn, Md.
86.	Harrison Schaen	PF	6-9	Mater Dei/Santa Ana, Calif.
87.	Jamar Nutter	PG	6-2	Seton Hall Prep/West Orange, N.J.
88.	Arthur Bowers	SG	6-3	St. Benedict's Prep/Newark, N.J.
89.	Akini Adkins	C	6-10	Leon/Tallahassee, Fla.
90.	Omari Isreal	PF	6-8	Good Counsel/Wheaton, Md.
91.	Lorenzo Thompson	PF	6-8	Crane/Chicago
92.	Stefan Zimmerman	PF	7-0	American Fork/American Fork, Utah
93.	Rayshawn Reed	PG	6-0	Inglewood/Inglewood, Calif.
94.	Louie McCroskey	SG	6-3	St. Raymond's/Bronx, N.Y.
95.	Marquis Webb	SG	6-3	Paterson Catholic/Paterson, N.J.
96.	Shawn Taylor	C	6-11	Dooly County/Vienna, Ga.
97.	Bobby Nash	SF	6-5	Iolani School/Honolulu
98.	Ricky Lucas	SF	6-5	Montrose Christian/Rockville, Md.
99.	Brent Petway	PF	6-8	Griffin/Griffin, Ga.
100.	Dante Milligan	SF	6-8	Pawling Trinity/Pawling, N.Y.

Top point guards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	School/Hometown

1. Shannon Brown 6-4 **Proviso East/Maywood, Ill.**
A solid floor leader, Brown committed to Michigan State during the summer. He can score and find the open man.

2. Andrew Lavender 5-7 **Brookhaven/Columbus, Ohio**
He sizzled during the July evaluation period. Lavender has a great crossover and can shake defenders with ease.

3. Chris Paul 6-0 **West Forsyth/Winston-Salem, N.C.**
Has great range on his jumper and does a nice job rotating the ball to open teammates. Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser is thrilled to have Paul.

4. Mustafa Shakur 6-3 **Friend Central/Wynnewood, N.J.**
Highly regarded and respected by college coaches, Mustafa just does his job. He distributes the ball well and can score when needed.

5. Brandon Cotton 6-0 **St. Martin DePorres/Detroit**
A scoring guard who finds the open man. He could be half of an incredible backcourt combination with Shannon Brown at Michigan State.

6. Gary Ervin 6-0 **St. Thomas More/Oakdale, Conn.**
Ervin is a speedy guard with a tremendous amount of energy. He can score in bunches and break down a defense when he attacks the basket.

7. Marcus Williams 6-2 **Crenshaw/Los Angeles**
One of the smartest players in the 2003 class, Williams rarely overreacts in tough situations and is a consistent shooter when left open.

8. Ryan Appleby 6-2 **Stanwood/Stanwood, Wash.**
A solid guard who has great passing skills, Appleby can score from anywhere on the court. He has committed to Florida.

9. Will Blaylock 5-11 **East Boston/Boston**
Blaylock's game is much improved over the past year. He can take the ball to the basket and score or dish to an open teammate.

10. Ayinde Ubaka 6-3 **Oakland/Oakland**
Has nice size for a lead guard and is very skilled at handling the basketball. Ubaka's very similar to Brown and could move up.

Top shooting guards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	School/Hometown

1. LeBron James 6-6 **St. Vincent-St. Mary/Akron, Ohio**
He can play many positions and likely will be the first pick in the June 2003 NBA draft. James has "Magic"-like qualities.

2. Mike Jones 6-3 **Thayer Academy/Braintree, Mass.**
Jones is headed to Maryland. He dramatically improved his perimeter game and has an explosive first step to the basket.

3. Dion Harris 6-4 **Redford/Detroit**
During the summer, Harris proved he can score from anywhere on the court. The Michigan recruit moves well from side to side.

4. Olu Famutimi 6-3 **Northwestern/Flint, Mich.**
Another outstanding talent from the state of Michigan. Famutini shoots the ball well and can get to the basket.

5. Richard McBride 6-3 **Lanphier/Springfield, Ill.**
Has a nice balanced game. McBride can stroke it from the perimeter and attack the basket. He is staying home to play for Illinois.

6. Lee Humphrey 6-3 **Maryville/Maryville, Tenn.**
He can score from deep. Humphrey has outstanding leadership skills, too. He will play for Florida.

7. Quincy Douby 6-3 **St. Thomas More/Montville, Conn.**
Douby is perhaps the best long-range shooter in high school. He committed to Hofstra then reopened his options.

8. Thomas Gardner 6-4 **Wilson/Portland, Ore.**
A terrific offensive player who likely will end up at a high Division I program. He moves well without the ball and can hit the jumper.

9. Colin Falls 6-3 **Loyola Academy/Wilmette, Ill.**
Colin has tremendous perimeter skills. He now attacks the basket aggressively and is a great foul shooter. He'll score plenty of points for Notre Dame.

10. Ramel Bradley 6-2 **Park West/New York City**
Bradley, a tough competitor who can score from deep and around the basket, will likely land at a high D-I school.

Top small forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	School/Hometown

1. Luol Deng 6-8 **Blair Academy/Blairstown, N.J.**
The most outstanding player available in the '03 class. Has tremendous leadership skills. Can play every position on the high school level.

2. Charlie Villanueva 6-10 **Blair Academy/Blairstown, N.J.**
Has the talent to be a pro someday. And it might be sooner than later after a great summer in which he displayed outstanding skills for a big man.

3. Von Wafer 6-5 **Pineview/Lisbon, La.**
Has great first step to the basket. One of the class' best offensive players. Can dominate a game with long-range shooting and drives to the basket.

4. Sean Banks 6-7 **Bergen Catholic/Oradell, N.J.**
Banks is headed to Memphis. He had some great tournaments this past summer, including the Bob Gibbons Tournament of Champions.

5. Marquis Kately 6-5 **Maine Central Instit./Pittsfield, Maine**
He's whatever you need him to be, able to play both forward positions. Committed to California. He can score with force and power to the basket.

6. Demetris Nichols 6-7 **St. Andrew's/Barrington, R.I.**
Syracuse-bound recruit has improved his perimeter game and is a team player who works hard at both ends. A great pickup for Jim Boeheim.

7. Travis Outlaw 6-10 **Starkville/Starkville, Miss.**
Outlaw is a terrific talent because he has size, long arms and a crossover dribble. He can elevate and get his own shot but can be inconsistent.

8. Brandon Foust 6-6 **Brookhaven/Columbus, Ohio**
Foust really picked it up during the big summer month of July. He finishes well around the basket and is athletic.

9. J.R. Giddens 6-5 **John Marshall/Oklahoma City**
Bound for Kansas, Giddens eventually will be a high impact player because he can score from anywhere on the court.

10. Regis Koundjia 6-7 **Laurinburg Institute/Laurinburg, N.C.**
Koundjia's a gifted scorer and likely to be a high impact player for LSU. He has nice jumper range and will battle inside for loose balls.

Top power forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	School/Hometown

1. Kris Humphries 6-8 **Hopkins/Minnetonka, Minn.**
The Duke recruit has the ability to score inside consistently and was named to the U.S. junior national team.

2. Ivan Harris 6-8 **Springfield South/Springfield, Ohio**
One of the more dominant players during the summer, particularly at ABCD. The Ohio State-bound lefty also can play small forward.

3. Leon Powe 6-8 **Oakland Tech/Oakland**
A knee injury sidelined Powe for the summer. However, he is a warrior and will get the big bucket when his team needs it. Committed to California.

4. Trevor Ariza 6-8 **Westchester/Los Angeles**
Ariza likes to take it to the basket and shoot it from the wing. He has plenty of offensive firepower to be a big-time scorer at the college level.

5. Ekene Ibekwe 6-9 **Carson/Carson, Calif.**
He possesses a deadly turnaround jumper. A big man who prefers to face the basket, Ibekwe also has the skill to create his own shot.

6. Brandon Bass 6-7 **Capitol/Baton Rouge, La.**
Bass can be tough inside and can drop down the foul-line jumper. When he moves his wide frame in the low post, he is difficult to push away.

7. Mohamed Abukar 6-9 **Rancho Bernardo/San Diego**
Georgia recruit is an athletic forward who can take it to the basket. He had a great summer and was named to the U.S. junior national team.

8. Terrence Roberts 6-8 **St. Anthony/Jersey City, N.J.**
He has the long arms and skills to play both forward positions. The lefty has good range on his jumper and can rattle the basket for dunks.

9. Corey Gibbs 6-6 **Redan/Stone Mountain, Ga.**
A tremendous inside finisher who will only improve as he increases his range on his jumper.

10. Chris Richard 6-8 **Kathleen/Lakeland, Fla.**
Runs the floor well and uses his wide frame to take advantage of soft defenders inside. Richard, a Florida recruit, plays hard at both ends of the court.

Top centers

Rk.	Name	Ht.	School/Hometown

1. James Lang 6-11 **Central Park Christian/Birmingham, Ala.**
A monster summer led to talk about jumping straight to the NBA. For now he's committed to Louisville, where he would be a force inside.

2. Brian Butch 7-0 **Appleton West/Appleton, Wis.**
His agility helps him move past slower defenders. Butch is relentless on the boards and battles for loose balls. He'll be a high D-I player.

3. Kendrick Perkins 6-10 **Ozen/Beaumont, Texas**
He is committed to Memphis, but talk of the NBA likely will surface next spring. Perkins has the size and strength to overpower his defenders.

4. Ndudi Ebi 6-10 **Westbury Christian/Houston**
Could be a power forward, too, because he has excellent range on his jumper. Likely to be an impact player right away because of his skills.

5. Chris Taft 6-9 **Xaverian/Brooklyn, N.Y.**
Could play power forward in college. An explosive player who is aggressive in taking it to the hoop. Will be a solid recruit for a high D-I program.

6. David Padgett 6-11 **Reno/Reno, Nev.**
Has improved a lot since last summer. He can eat some space and has some skills. He plays hard all the time and tries to gobble up every rebound.

7. Wesley Green 6-9 **Eustis/Eustis, Fla.**
One of our favorite players to watch this past summer. He works hard and throws a great outlet pass. Green is nimble and has a sweet hook, too.

8. Jackie Butler 6-10 **McComb/McComb, Miss.**
Some NBA talk has followed Butler, but he should take a couple of years on the college level to develop more consistency.

9. Walter Waters 6-9 **Southeastern/Detroit**
Waters is headed to Pittsburgh. He is a workman-type player who eats up space, scores on putbacks and is willing to do the dirty work.

10. Major Wingate 6-10 **Wilson/Florence, S.C.**
Wingate has size, strength and a world of potential. If he increases his consistency, he will be a big-time prospect.

Top juniors

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	School/City
1.	**Dwight Howard**	PF	6-10	SW Atlanta Christian Academy/Atlanta
2.	**Earl "J.R." Smith**	SF	6-5	Lakewood/Lakewood, N.J.
3.	**Mike Williams**	PF	6-8	Wilcox Central/Camden, Ala.
4.	**Darius Washington**	PG	6-0	Edgewater/Orlando
5.	**Juan Palacios**	SF	6-8	Our Savior New American/Centereach, N.Y.
6.	**D.J. White**	C	6-9	Hillcrest/Tuscaloosa, Ala.
7.	**Shaun Livingston**	PG	6-6	Central/Peoria, Ill.
8.	**Marvin Williams**	SF	6-8	Bremerton/Bremerton, Wash.
9.	**Al Jefferson**	C	6-10	Prentiss/Prentiss, Miss.
10.	**Sebastian Telfair**	PG	5-11	Lincoln/Brooklyn, N.Y.
11.	**Brian Johnson**	C	6-9	Bishop O'Connell/Arlington, Va.
12.	**LaMarcus Aldridge**	C	6-11	Seagoville/Dallas
13.	**Kalen Grimes**	C	6-8	Hazelwood Central/Florissant, Mo.
14.	**DeMarcus Nelson**	PG	6-3	Vallejo/Vallejo, Calif.
15.	**Mohamed Tangara**	C	6-10	Mt. Zion Christian Academy/Durham, N.C.

Top sophomores

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	School/City
1.	**Louis Williams**	PG	6-2	South Gwinnett/Snellville, Ga.
2.	**Tasmin Mitchell**	SF	6-7	Denham Springs/Denham Springs, La.
3.	**Marcus Ginyard**	SG	6-5	Bishop O'Connell/Arlington, Va.
4.	**Yi Jianlian**	C	6-11	Liaoning Basketball SC/ShenZhen, China
5.	**Joey Cameron**	PF	6-8	Calera/Calera, Ala.
6.	**Kendrick Johnson**	C	6-10	Morton/Morton, Texas
7.	**Monte Ellis**	PG	6-2	Lanier/Jackson, Miss.
8.	**Dwain Williams**	PG	6-1	San Joaquin Memorial/Fresno, Calif.
9.	**Bryon Eaton**	PG	6-0	Lincoln/Dallas
10.	**Jordan Wilkes**	PF	6-9	Loyola/Los Angeles
11.	**Andre McGee**	PG	5-10	Canyon Springs/Moreno Valley, Calif.
12.	**Rashad Chase**	PF	6-8	Mays/Atlanta
13.	**Eric Price**	PG	6-1	Montrose Christian/Rockville, Md.
14.	**Tyler Smith**	SF	6-6	Giles County/Pulaski, Tenn.
15.	**Richard Hendrix**	PF	6-8	Athens/Athens, Ala.

Where last season's top JC players signed

By Rick Ball, Ballplayers JC report

Point guards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Tim Barnes	6-1/165	Southeastern Illinois	Iowa State
2.	Janavor Witherspoon	6-1/180	Odessa (Texas)	Oklahoma State
3.	Frank Richards	6-2/180	Olney (Ill.)	Kansas State
4.	Brandon Brooks	6-1/170	Indian Hills (Iowa)	Southern California
5.	Ricky Clemons	5-11/168	Southern Idaho	Missouri
6.	Mark Brown	5-10/155	Saddleback (Calif.)	Utah State
7.	Nate Johnson	6-2/185	Moberly (Mo.)	Florida State
8.	Antonio Rambo	5-10/155	Southwestern Illinois	Arkansas State
9.	Leandro Garcia-Morales	6-1/180	Miami-Dade	Texas A&M
10.	Moses White	6-0/170	Tallahassee (Fla.)	Florida A&M

Shooting guards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1	Antwain Barbour	6-5/195	Wabash Valley (Ill.)	Kentucky
2.	Nate Johnson	6-1/180	Penn Valley (Mo.)	Nebraska
3.	Derrick Tarver	6-4/210	San Francisco	Akron
4.	Jarrett Hart	6-4/205	Arkansas-Fort Smith	Kansas State
5.	Rashi Johnson	6-2/195	Mott (Mich.)	Michigan State
6.	Tony Bobbitt	6-4/185	Southern Idaho	Cincinnati
7.	Andre Joseph	6-3/195	Lee (Texas)	Oregon
8.	Les Norman	6-1/190	Long Beach (Calif.)	Coppin State
9.	Chris Young	6-1/185	Daytona Beach (Fla.)	South Alabama
10.	Prileau Davis	6-3/175	Phoenix	Louisville

Small forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Terrence Thomas	6-7/220	Lon Morris (Texas)	Baylor
2.	Jerome Harper	6-5/205	Indian Hills (Iowa)	Iowa State
3.	Roy Smiley	6-4/195	Southeastern (Iowa)	Southern California
4.	Malerick Bedden	6-6/220	Highland (Ill.)	South Alabama
5.	Devin Smith (freshman)	6-5/215	Coffeyville (Kan.)	Virginia
6.	Dexter Lyons	6-5/200	Daytona Beach (Fla.)	Central Florida
7.	Tony Allen	6-4/205	Wabash Valley (Ill.)	Oklahoma State
8.	Eli Warren	6-4/235	Pensacola (Fla.)	Detroit
9.	Emmett Thomas	6-4/205	Bevill State (Ala.)	Alabama
10.	Jamal Hill	6-6/200	San Jose (Calif.)	Arizona State

Power forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Jaime Lloreda	6-9/240	Dixie (Utah)	Louisiana State
2.	Jackson Vroman	6-10/230	Snow (Utah)	Iowa State
3.	Jamar Smith	6-9/225	Allegany (Md.)	Maryland
4.	Cameron Echols	6-8/210	Kennedy King (Ill.)	Ball State
5.	Rodney Tucker	6-8/250	Tallahassee (Fla.)	Auburn
6.	Eulis Baez	6-7/212	Southeastern (Iowa)	Florida International
7.	Kendall Dartez	6-10/220	Vincennes (Ind.)	Louisville
8.	Grady Reynolds	6-7/215	Southern Union (Ala.)	St. John's
9.	Branden Vincent	6-8/225	Okaloosa-Walton (Fla.)	Mississippi State
10.	Chris Booker	6-10/240	Tyler (Texas)	Purdue

Centers

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	J.K. Edwards	6-8/250	Indian Hills (Iowa)	UNLV
2.	Rafael Araujo	6-11/260	Arizona Western	Brigham Young
3.	Fred Adjiwanou	6-9/220	Foothill (Calif.)	St. Mary's
4.	Gabe Kennedy	6-9/235	Bevill State (Ala.)	UAB
5.	Jeff Graves	6-9/255	Iowa Western	Kansas
6.	Sylbrin Robinson	6-7/208	Odessa (Texas)	Northeastern
7.	Seth Scott	6-10/220	Utah Valley State	Portland State
8.	Chris Alexander	7-1/235	Indian Hills (Iowa)	Iowa State
9.	Chris Cologer	6-11/210	Globe Institute (N.Y.)	Saint Joseph's
10.	Shawnson Johnson	6-9/235	Lee (Texas)	Louisiana State

Top 2002-03 JC sophomores

Point guards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Travis DeGroot	6-3/200	New Mexico Military Inst.
2.	Jerel Blassingame	5-10/180	L.A.City
3.	Filiberto Rivera	6-1/165	Southeastern (Iowa)
4.	Chris Huber	6-2/180	Dixie (Utah)
5.	Daryl Dorsey	6-2/180	Brevard (Fla.)
6.	Donell Taylor	6-5/190	Okaloosa-Walton (Fla.)
7.	Carlos Hurt	6-2/170	Wabash Valley (Ill.)
8.	Isaac Hines	6-1/175	Collin County (Texas)
9.	Darel Lucas	6-0/170	Redlands (Okla.)
10.	Zione White	6-3/175	SW Missouri State-West Plains

Shooting guards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Nick Williams	6-3/185	Chipola (Fla.)
2.	Ed McCants	6-2/190	Paris (Texas)
3.	Roy Booker	6-2/180	Allen County (Kan.)
4.	Dion Sherrell	6-4/200	Schoolcraft (Mich.)
5.	Steve Moore	6-4/200	Eastern Oklahoma State
6.	JueMichael Young	6-3/200	Chipola (Fla.)
7.	Jerry Nichols	6-4/170	Walters State (Tenn.)
8.	Bradley Mosley	6-2/175	Daytona Beach (Fla.)
9.	Michael McFadden	6-5/190	San Jose (Calif.)
10.	J.J. Montgomery	6-4/195	Angelina (Texas)

Small forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Nate Daniels	6-8/215	Broward (Fla.)
2.	Nick Dewitz	6-8/210	Mesa (Ariz.)
3.	Aaron Curtis	6-4/195	Lon Morris (Texas)
4.	Jeff Varem	6-5/220	Vincennes (Ind.)
5.	Shane Hawkins	6-6/225	Columbus State (Ohio)
6.	Omar Thomas	6-5/190	Panola (Texas)
7.	Michael Bell	6-9/210	Palm Beach (Fla.)
8.	Quinnel Brown	6-5/205	Wabash Valley (Ill.)
9.	Tre Simmons	6-5/190	Odessa (Texas)
10.	Marvin Moore	6-6/210	Southern Union (Ala.)

Power forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Chris Adams	6-10/220	San Francisco
2.	Nouha Diakite	6-10/220	Barton County (Kan.)
3.	Oswaldo Gonzales	6-9/235	Jacksonville (Texas)
4.	Dreike Bouldin	6-8/205	Carl Albert (Okla.)
5.	Marcus Jackson	6-8/225	South Plains (Texas)
6.	Damian Staples	6-8/220	Southeastern Illinois
7.	Yakhouba Diawara	6-7/225	Southern Idaho
8.	Jeremiah Massey	6-8/225	Oxnard (Calif.)
9.	Chris Williams	6-7/225	Hill (Texas)
10.	Darius Brannon	6-9/215	Lee (Texas)

Centers

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Robert Whaley	6-10/260	Barton County (Kan.)
2.	Darrius Manciel	6-10/220	Arkansas-Fort Smith
3.	Justin Williams	6-10/235	Kankakee (Ill.)
4.	Tony Key	6-10/265	Vincennes (Ind.)
5.	Tremaine Fuqua	6-9/245	Skyline (Calif.)
6.	Diego Romero	6-10/245	Lon Morris (Texas)
7.	Marques Lewis	6-9/255	Wabash Valley (Ill.)
8.	Pearson Griffith	6-10/230	Murray State (Okla.)
9.	Justin Garcia	7-0/235	San Bernardino (Calif.)
10.	Kitus Witherspoon	6-8/230	Seminole (Fla.)

For more information on *Ballplayers JC Report*, go to www.ballstars.net.

Rating the JC transfers

Best NBA prospect: Antwain Barbour (Wabash Valley), Kentucky
Best passer under 6-5: Leandro Garcia-Morales (Miami-Dade), Texas A&M
Best passer over 6-5: Jerome Harper (Indian Hills), Iowa State
Best ballhandler: Jarrett Hart (Fort Smith), Kansas State
Best scorer: Antonio Rambo (Southwestern Illinois), Arkansas State
Most creative scorer: Terrence Thomas (Lon Morris), Baylor
Best field goal shooter: Cameron Echols (Kennedy King), Ball State
Best 3-point shooter: Troves Thompson (West Plains), Arkansas State
Best rebounder: Jamar Smith (Allegany), Maryland
Best shot blocker: Chris Alexander (Indian Hills), Iowa State
Best dunker: Al Williams (Dixie), Southern Utah
Best defender: Sylbrin Robinson (Odessa), Northeastern
Biggest steal: Seth Scott (Utah Valley State), Portland State
Biggest sleeper: Eulis Baez (Southeastern), Florida International

2002 Division I coaching changes

School	Old coach (reason for departure)	New coach (background)
Albany	Scott Beeten (dismissed)	Will Brown (interim; Albany asst.)
Arkansas	Nolan Richardson (dismissed)	Stan Heath (x-Kent State)
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Harold Blevins (dismissed)	Van Holt, interim (Ark.-PB asst.)
Army	Pat Harris (dismissed)	Jim Crews (x-Evansville)
Bethune-Cookman	Horace Broadnax (resigned)	Clifford Reed Jr. (interim; B-Cookman asst.)
Boise State	Rod Jensen (dismissed)	Greg Graham (Oregon asst.)
Bradley	Jim Molinari (dismissed)	Jim Les (WNBA Monarchs asst.)
Cal Poly	Jeff Schneider (resigned)	Kevin Bromley (interim; Cal Poly asst.)
College of Charleston	John Kresse (retired)	Tom Herrion (Virginia asst.)
Chattanooga	Henry Dickerson (reassigned)	Jeff Lebo (x-Tennessee Tech)
DePaul	Pat Kennedy (resigned; to Montana)	Dave Leitao (Connecticut asst.)
Evansville	Jim Crews (to Army)	Steve Merfeld (x-Hampton)
Florida State	Steve Robinson (dismissed)*	Leonard Hamilton (NBA Wizards)
Fresno State	Jerry Tarkanian (retired)	Ray Lopes (Oklahoma asst.)
Hampton	Steve Merfeld (to Evansville)	Bobby Collins (Hampton asst.)
Kent State	Stan Heath (to Arkansas)	Jim Christian (Kent State asst.)
Lehigh	Sal Mentesana (dismissed)	Bill Taylor (UNC Greensboro asst.)
Liberty	Mel Hankinson (dismissed)	Randy Dunton (Liberty asst.)
Long Beach State	Wayne Morgan (resigned)	Larry Reynolds (x-Cal St. San Bernardino)
Long Island	Ray Martin (resigned)	Jim Ferry (x-Adelphi)
Middle Tennessee	Randy Wiel (resigned)	Kermit Davis Jr. (LSU asst.; x-Idaho)
Montana	Don Holst (dismissed)	Pat Kennedy (x-DePaul, x-Florida State)
New Mexico	Fran Fraschilla (resigned)	Ritchie McKay (x-Oregon State)
Nicholls State	Ricky Broussard (to LSU asst.)	Ricky Blanton (basketball aca. director)
Norfolk State	Wil Jones (dismissed)	Dwight Freeman (Miami asst., x-Marshall)
UNC Wilmington	Jerry Wainwright (to Richmond)	Brad Brownell (UNC Wilmington asst.)
Oregon State	Ritchie McKay (to New Mexico)	Jay John (Arizona asst.)
Portland State	Joel Sobotka (resigned)	Heath Schroyer (Wyoming asst.)
Prairie View	Elwood Plummer (dismissed)	Jerry Francis (Houston asst.)
Radford	Ron Bradley (resigned)**	Byron Samuels (Radford asst.)
Richmond	John Beilein (to West Virginia)	Jerry Wainwright (x-UNC Wilmington)
Saint Louis	Lorenzo Romar (to Washington)	Brad Soderberg (St. Louis asst., Wisc. interim)
San Jose State	Steve Barnes (to Iowa State asst.)	Phil Johnson (x-SJSU; NBA Bulls asst.)
Savannah State	Jack Grant (dismissed)	Ed Daniels Jr. (H.S. coach)
South Alabama	Bob Weltlich (resigned)	John Pelphrey (Florida asst.)
Tennessee Tech	Jeff Lebo (to Chattanooga)	Mike Sutton (Kentucky asst.)
TCU	Billy Tubbs (retired)	Neil Dougherty (Kansas asst.)
UAB	Murry Bartow (resigned)	Mike Anderson (Arkansas interim, asst.)
Valparaiso	Homer Drew (retired)	Scott Drew (Valparaiso asst.)
Va. Commonwealth	Mack McCarthy (to administration)	Jeff Capel III (VCU asst.)
Washington	Bob Bender (dismissed)	Lorenzo Romar (x-St. Louis; x-Pepp'dine)
West Virginia	Gale Catlett (retired)	John Beilein (x-Richmond)
Wisconsin-Green Bay	Mike Heideman (dismissed)	Tod Kowalczyk (Marquette asst.)
Wofford	Richard Johnson (resigned)	Mike Young (Wofford asst.)

Compiled by Gary K. Johnson, NCAA. x=previous college coaching position.
*To Kansas assistant. **To James Madison assistant.

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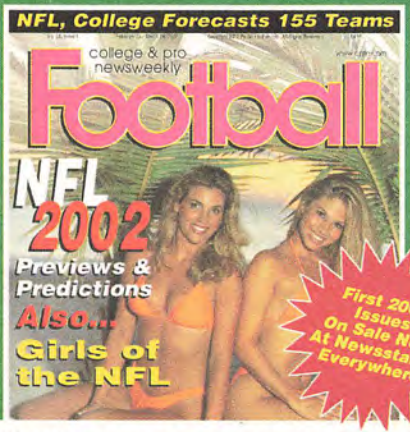

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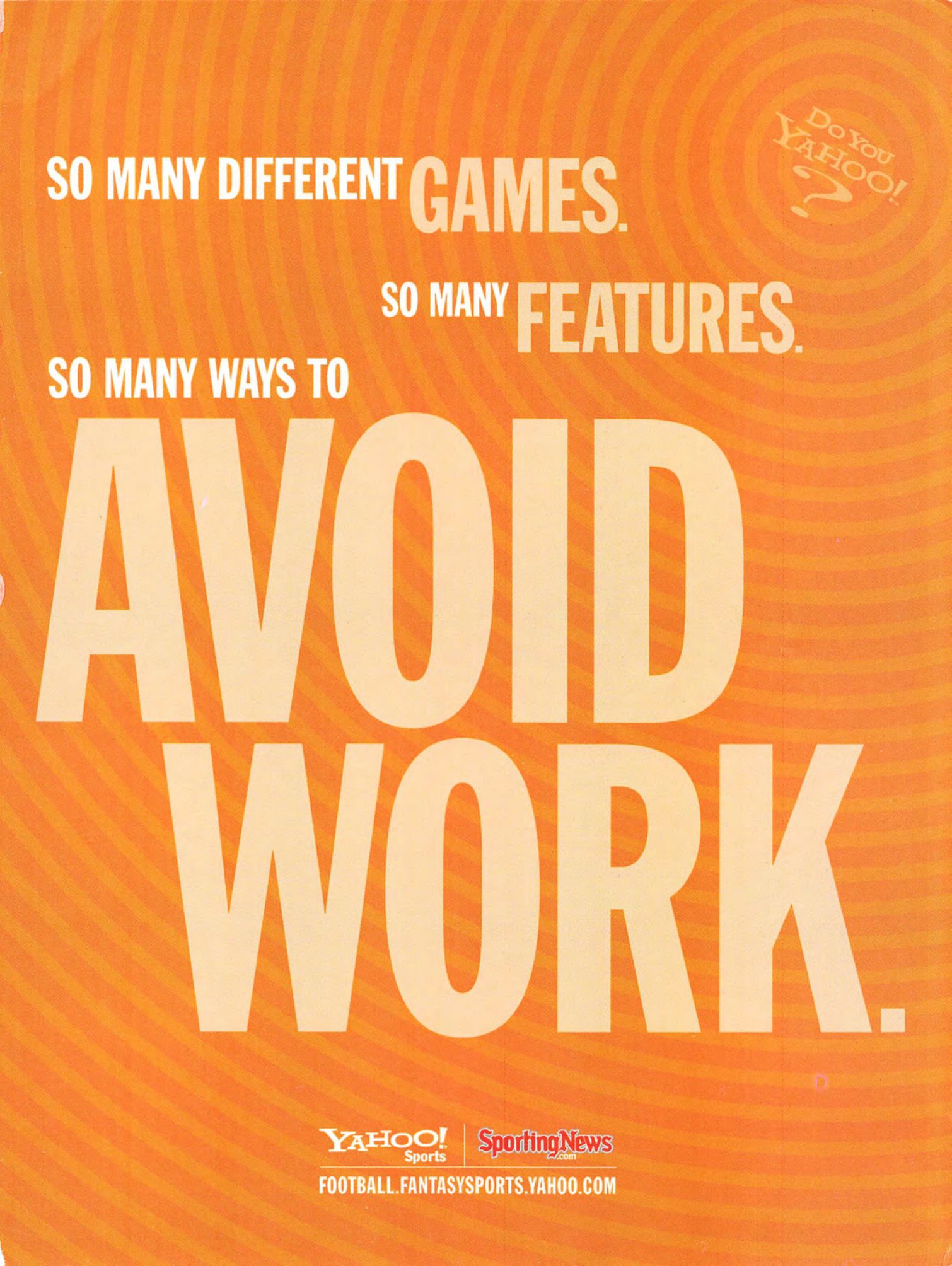
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